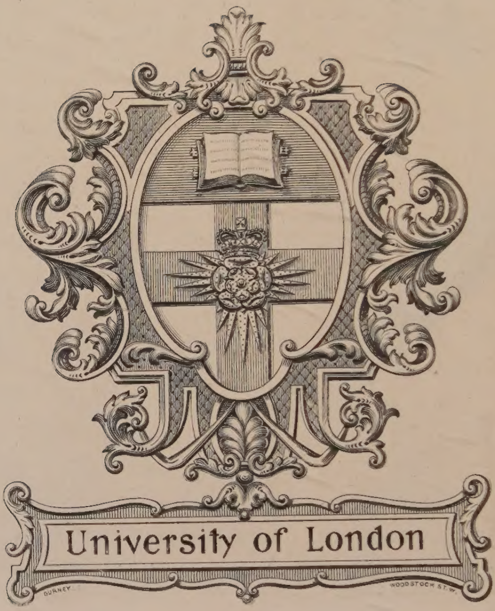
THIS BOOK
MUST NOT BE REMOVED
FROM THE LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON LIBRARY

REFERENCE ONLY

PARL. PAPERS
FOR REFERENCE ONLY:


University of London
GURNEY
WOODSTOCK ST. W.

616943

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(AUTHORISED EDITION),

FOURTH SERIES

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

OF THE

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

7 EDWARD VII.

VOLUME CLXIX.

COMPRISING PERIOD FROM TUESDAY, TWELFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1907, TO TUESDAY, TWENTY-SIXTH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1907.

FIRST VOLUME OF SESSION

1907.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED,
UNDER CONTRACT WITH HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE,
BY
WYMAN AND SONS, LIMITED, FETTER LANE, LONDON.

8472

CHRONOLOGY OF "THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES."

THE PARLIAMENTARY HISTORY contains all that can be collected of the Legislative History of this country from the Conquest to the close of the XVIIIth Century (1803), 36 vols. The chief sources whence these Debates are derived are the Constitutional History, 24 vols.; Sir Simonds D'Ewes' Journal; Debates of the Commons in 1620 and 1621; Chandler and Timberland's Debates, 22 vols.; Grey's Debates of the Commons, from 1667 to 1694, 10 vols.; Almon's Debates, 24 vols.; Debrett's Debates, 63 vols.; The Hardwicke Papers; Debates in Parliament by Dr. Johnson, &c., &c.

THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES commence with the year 1803, and the contents are set forth in the following Chronological Table:—

HISTORY.

CONQUEST to 34 GEO. II.—1066 to 1760.

Vol. 1 to 15, 1 Will. I. to 34 Geo. II.
1066-1760

REIGN OF GEORGE III.—1760 to 1820.

Vol. 15 to 35, 1 Geo. III. to 40 Geo. III.
1760-1800

(First Parliament.)

Vol. 35 ....41 Geo. III..........1801
— 36 ....42 — 1802

(Second Parliament.)

Vol. 36 ....42 Geo. III. 1802-3

DEBATES.

First Series.

(Second Parliament—*continued.*)

Vol. 1 & 2...44 Geo. III.......1803-4
— 3 to 5...45 — 1805
— 6 & 7...46 — 1806

(Third Parliament.)

Vol. 8 & 9...47 Geo. III.......1806-7

(Fourth Parliament.)

Vol. 9 to 11...48 Geo. III.......1807-8
— 12 — 14...49 — 1809
— 15 — 17...50 — 1810
— 18 — 20...51 — ... 1810-11
— 21 — 23...52 — 1812

(Fifth Parliament.)

Vol. 24 to 26...53 Geo. III. ... 1812-13
— 27 & 28...54 — ... 1813-14
— 29 to 31...55 — ... 1814-15
— 32 — 34...56 — 1816
— 35 & 36...57 — 1817
— 37 — 38...58 — 1818

(Sixth Parliament.)

Vol. 39 & 40...59 Geo. III. 1819
— 41 ....60 — ... 1819-20

Second Series.

REIGN OF GEORGE IV.—1820 to 1830.

(Seventh Parliament.)

Vol. 1 to 3... 1 Geo. IV. 1820
— 4 & 5... 2 — 1821
— 6 — 7... 3 — 1822
— 8 — 9... 4 — 1823
— 10 — 11... 5 — 1824
— 12 — 13... 6 — 1825-6
— 14 — 15... 7 — 1826

(Eighth Parliament.)

Vol. 16 .... 7 Geo. IV. 1826
— 17 .... 8 — 1827
— 18 & 19... 9 — 1828
— 20 — 21...10 — 1829
— 22 to 25...11 — 1830

Third Series.

REIGN OF WILLIAM IV.—1830 to 1837.

(Ninth Parliament.)

Vol. 1 to 3... 1 Will. IV.......1830-1

(Tenth Parliament.)

Vol. 4 to 8... 2 Will. IV. 1832
— 9 — 14... 3 — 1831

(Eleventh Parliament.)

Vol. 15 to 20... 4 Will. IV....... 1833
— 21 — 25... 5 — 1834

(Twelfth Parliament.)

Vol. 26 to 30... 6 Will. IV....... 1835
— 31 — 35... 7 — 1836
— 36 — 38... 8 — 1837

REIGN OF VICTORIA—1837 to 1901.

(Thirteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 39 to 44... 1 Victoria 1838
— 45 — 50... 2 — 1839
— 51 — 55... 3 — 1840
— 56 — 58... 4 — (a) 1841

(Fourteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 59 .... 4 Victoria (b) 1841
— 60 to 65... 5 — 1842
— 66 — 71... 6 — 1843
— 72 — 76... 7 — 1844
— 77 — 82... 8 — 1845
— 83 — 88... 9 — 1846
— 89 — 94...10 — (a) 1847

(Fifteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 95 ... .10 Victoria (b) 1847
— 96 to 101...11 — 1848
— 102 —107...12 — 1849
— 108 —113...13 — 1850
— 114 —118...14 — 1851
— 119 —122...15 — (a) 1852

(Sixteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 123 ....15 Victoria (b) 1852
— 124 to 129...16 — 1853
— 130 —135...17 — 1854
— 136 —139...18 — 1855
— 140 —143...19 — 1856
— 144 — .....20 — (a) 1857

(Seventeenth Parliament.)

Vol. 145 to 147...20 Victoria (b) 1857
— 148 —151...21 — 1858
— 152 —153...22 — (a) 1859

(Eighteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 154 to 155...22 Victoria (b) 1859
— 156 —160...23 — 1860
— 161 —164...24 — 1861
— 165 —168...25 — 1862
— 169 —172...26 — 1863
— 173 —176...27 — 1864
— 177 —180...28 — 1865

(Nineteenth Parliament.)

Vol. 181 to 184...29 Victoria...... 1866
— 185 —189...30 — 1867
— 190 —193...31 — ... 1867-8

(Twentieth Parliament.)

Vol. 194 to 198...32 Victoria ... 1868-9
— 199 —203...33 — 1870
— 204 —208...34 — 1871
— 209 —213...35 — 1872
— 214 —217...36 — 1873

(Twenty-First Parliament.)

Vol. 218 to 221...37 Victoria 1874
— 222 —226...38 — 1875
— 227 —231...39 — 1876
— 232 —236...40 — 1877
— 237 —242...41 — 1878
— 243 —249...42 — ... 1878-9
— 250 & 251...43 — (a) 1880

(Twenty-Second Parliament.)

Vol. 252 to 256...43 Victoria (b) 1880
— 257 —265...44 — 1881
— 266 —273...45 — (a) 1882
— 274 & 275...45 — (b) 1882
— 276 to 283...46 — 1883
— 284 —292...47 — 1884
— 293 —301...48 — ... 1884-5

(Twenty-Third Parliament.)

Vol. 302 to 307...49 Victoria (a) 1886

(Twenty-Fourth Parliament.)

Vol. 308 & 309...49 Victoria (b) 1886
— 310 to 321...50 — 1887
— 322 —332...51 — 1888
— 333 —340...52 — 1889
— 341 —348...53 — 1890
— 349 —356...54 — ... 1890-1

Fourth Series.

(TWENTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*)

Vol. 1 to 6...55 VICTORIA 1892

(TWENTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 7 ....56 VICTORIA 1892
— 8 to 21...57 — ... 1893-4
— 22 — 29...57 — 1894
— 30 — 35...58 — 1895

(TWENTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 36 ....59 VICTORIA 1895
— 37 to 44...59 — ... 1895-6
— 45 — 52...60 — 1897
— 53 — 65...61 — 1898
— 66 — 76...62 — 1899
— 77 ....63 — 1899
— 78 — 83...63 — 1900
— 84 ... 63 & 64 — 1900
— 85 — 87...64 — 1900

(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 88 ....64 VICTORIA 1900

REIGN OF EDWARD VII.

(TWENTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT—*cont.*)

Vol. 89 .... 1 EDWARD VII....1901
— 90 to 100 1 — ...1901
— 101 ... 1 & 2 — ...1902
— 102 to 117 2 — ...1902
— 118 to 128 3 — ...1903
— 129 to 140 4 — ...1904
— 141 to 151 5 — ...1905

(TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT.)

Vol. 152 to 168 6 EDWARD VII....1906
Vol. 169 7 „ „ ...1907

HIS MAJESTY'S PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF STATE, Etc.

SIR HENRY CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN'S FIRST ADMINISTRATION DECEMBER 1905.

THE CABINET.

Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury——Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.
Lord President of the Council——Rt. Hon. the Earl of Crewe.
Lord Chancellor——Rt. Hon. Lord Loreburn.
Chancellor of the Exchequer——Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P.
Secretaries of State——
  Home Department——Rt. Hon. Herbert J. Gladstone, M.P.
  Foreign Affairs——Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Grey, Bt., M.P.
  Colonial Office——Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.
  War Office——Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane, M.P.
  India Office——Rt. Hon. John Morley, M.P.
First Lord of the Admiralty——Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
Chief Secretary for Ireland——Rt. Hon. A. Birrell, M.P.
Lord Privy Seal——Most. Hon Marquess of Ripon.
President of the Board of Education——Rt. Hon. R. McKenna, M.P.
President of the Board of Trade——Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George, M.P.
President of the Local Government Board——Rt. Hon. John Burns, M.P.
President of the Board of Agriculture——Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.
Postmaster-General——Rt. Hon. Sydney Buxton, M.P.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster——Rt. Hon. Sir Henry Fowler, M.P.
The Secretary for Scotland——Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair, M.P.

NOT IN THE CABINET.

Under Secretary of State, Foreign Office——Lord Fitzmaurice.
Under Secretary of State, Home Office——Herbert Samuel, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office——Winston Churchill, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, India Office——C. E. Hobhouse, Esq., M.P.
Under Secretary of State, War Office——Rt. Hon. Earl of Portsmouth.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasury——George Whiteley, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education——Thomas Lough, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Admiralty——Rt. Hon. E. Robertson, M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade——H. E. Kearley, Esq., M.P.
Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board——Dr. Macnamara, M.P.
Financial Secretary to the Treasury——Walter Runciman, Esq., M.P.
Financial Secretary to the War Office——T. R. Buchanan, Esq., M.P.

Lords of the Treasury——
  J. A. Pease, Esq., M.P.
  Herbert Lewis, Esq., M.P.
  Captain Cecil Norton, M.P.
  J. M. F. Fuller, Esq., M.P.

Lords of the Admiralty——
  Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Fisher.
  Vice-Admiral Sir C. C. Drury.
  Rear-Admiral Sir H. B. Jackson.
  Rear-Admiral F. S. Inglefield.

Army Council——
  The Secretary of State for War [*in the Cabinet*].
  General Hon. Sir N. G. Lyttelton (Chief of the General Staff).
  General C. W. H. Douglas (Adjutant-General to the Forces).
  General Sir W. G. Nicholson (Quarter-Master-General to the Forces).
  Major-General Sir J. W. Murray (Master-General of the Ordnance).
  The Under Secretary of State for War.
  The Financial Secretary to the War Office.
  Secretary. The Permanent Under Secretary of State for War (Colonel Sir E. W. D. Ward).

The Civil Lord of the Admiralty——George Lambert, Esq., M.P.
Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland——Rt. Hon. the Earl of Aberdeen.
The Lord Advocate——Thomas Shaw, Esq., M.P.
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster——In the Cabinet.
Attorney-General——Sir J. Lawson Walton, M.P.
Solicitor-General——Sir W. S. Robson, M.P.
Paymaster-General——R. K. Causton, Esq., M.P.

OTHER OFFICERS OF STATE.

Lord Steward——Rt. Hon. Earl of LIVERPOOL.
Comptroller of the Household——The Master of ELIBANK, M.P.
Treasurer of the Household——Sir EDWARD STRACHEY, Bt., M.P.
Lord Chamberlain——Rt. Hon. Viscount ALTHORP.
Vice-Chamberlain——WENTWORTH BEAUMONT, Esq., M.P.
Master of the Horse——Rt. Hon. Earl of SEFTON.
Captain Yeoman of the Guard——His Grace the Duke of MANCHESTER.
Lords-in-Waiting——
- Earl GRANVILLE.
- Earl of GRANARD.
- Lord HAMILTON of DALZELL.
- Lord ACTON.
- Lord DENMAN.
- Lord COLEBROOKE.
- Lord SUFFIELD.

Judge Advocate-General——T. MILVAIN, Esq., K.C.

SCOTLAND.

Secretary for Scotland and Keeper of the Great Seal——Rt. Hon. JOHN SINCLAIR.
Lord High Constable——Earl of ERROL.
Lord Privy Seal——Marquess of BREADELBANE, K.G.
Master of the Household——Duke of ARGYLL, K.T.
Lord High Commissioner——Lord COLEBROOKE.
Lord Clerk Register——His Grace the Duke of MONTROSE, K.T.
Lord Justice General——Rt. Hon. Lord DUNEDIN.
Lord Advocate——Rt. Hon. THOMAS SHAW, K.C.
Lord Justice Clerk——Rt. Hon. Lord KINSBURGH, C.B.
Solicitor-General——ALEXANDER URE, Esq., K.C.
Register General and Deputy Keeper Great Seal—Sir STAIR AGNEW, K.C.B.
Commanding Forces——Lt.-Gen. E. P. LEACH, C.B., C.V.O.

IRELAND.

Lord-Lieutenant——Earl of ABERDEEN, G.C.M.G.
Chief Secretary and Keeper of Privy Seal——Rt. Hon. A. BIRRELL, M.P.
Under Secretary——Rt. Hon. Sir A. MACDONNELL, G.C.S.I., K.C.V.O.
Private Secretaries——Lord HERSCHELL and WALTER CALLAN, Esq.
State Steward and Chamberlain——Viscount HAWKESBURY, M.V.O.
Controller——Major LAMBART.
Lord Chancellor——Lord Justice WALKER.
Attorney-General——Rt. Hon. R. R CHERRY, K.C., M.P.
Solicitor-General——REDMOND BARRY, Esq., K.C.
Commanding the Forces——Gen. Lord GRENFELL, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF LORDS.

Chairman of Committees——Rt. Hon. Earl of Onslow.
Clerk of Parliaments——Sir Henry J. L. Graham, K.C.B.
Deputy Clerk of Parliaments (Clerk Assistant)——Hon. E. P. Thesiger, C.B.
Reading-Clerk and Clerk of Outdoor Committees——Edward Hall Alderson, Esq.
Counsel to the Chairman of Committees——Albert Gray, Esq.
Chief Clerk and Clerk of Public Bills——A. Harrison, Esq.
Senior Clerks——
  Clerk of the Journals——W. A. Leigh, Esq.
  Principal Clerk of Private Committees——J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.
  Principal Clerk, Judicial Department, and Taxing Officer of Judicial Costs——J. F Skene, Esq.
  W. H. Hamilton Gordon, Esq.
  Peers' Printed Paper Office——C. L. Anstruther, Esq.
Other Clerks——Hon. A. McDonnell; A. H. Robinson, Esq. (Clerk of Private Bills and Taxing Officer of Private Bill Costs); H. P. St. John, Esq.; V. M. Biddulph, Esq.; Hon. E. A. Stonor; H. J. F. Badeley, Esq.; C. Headlam, Esq.; J. B. Hotham, Esq.; E. C. Vigors, Esq.; A. Tennyson, Esq.; G. D. Luard, Esq.; and G. Proby, Esq.
Receiver of Fees and Accountant——T. A. Court, Esq.
Copyists——Mr. H. P. Norris and Mr. R. A. Court.
Messengers——Messrs. A. A. Worfell, C. E. Chizlett, J. W. F Locke, J. McMillan, G. Bennett, G. T. Philip, W. S. Wright.
Librarian——Edmund Gosse, Esq., LL.D.
Assistant Librarian——A. H. M. Butler, Esq.
Attendant——Mr. A. N. Stott.
Examiners for Standing Orders——C. W. Campion, Esq.; J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.; Clerk——H. C. Bramwell, Esq.
entleman Usher of the Black Rod——Admiral Sir F. H. Stephenson, G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
Yeoman Usher——Captain T. D. Butler, M.V.O.
Serjeant-at-Arms——Lt.-Col. Rt. Hon. Sir Fleetwood I. Edwards, G.C.V.O., K.C B.
Deputy Serjeant-at-Arms——S. Hand, Esq.
Resident Superintendent——J. K. Williams, Esq.
Shorthand Writer——W. H. Gurney Salter, Esq.
Principal Doorkeepers——Messrs. W. Chandler, E. Fox, F. Holman.
First Class Assistants——Messrs. C. Walker, J. Hedley, J. Lane, B. Gallop.
Second Class Assistants——Messrs. H. B. Strevens, G. W. Cross, W. Stopp.
Third Class Assistants——Messrs. J. Woolacott, A. A. Edney, J. F. Baum.
Messengers——Messrs. A. J. Solman, C. Chapman, W. Phillips, W. W. Meates, T. Whitehead.
Superintendent of Refreshment Rooms——Mr. W. Casbon.
Inspector of Police attending the House of Lords——Mr. A. Palmer.
Clerk of the Works, Houses of Parliament——Mr. P. E. Ridge.
Resident Engineer, Houses of Parliament——Mr. A. P. Patey.

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Clerk of the House of Commons——Sir Courtenay Peregrine Ilbert, K.C.S.I., C.I.E.
Clerk-Assistant——Arthur W. Nicholson, Esq.
Second Clerk-Assistant——T. L. Webster, Esq.
Principal Clerks——
  Public Bill Office, and Clerk of Fees——W. Gibbons, Esq., C.B.
  Clerk of the Journals——W. H. Ley, Esq.
  Committee Office——F. St. George Tupper, Esq.
  Private Bill Office——J. H. W. Somerset, Esq.
Senior Clerks——C. V. Frere, Esq.; G. C. Giffard, Esq.; Sir E. H. Doyle, Bart.; S. L. Simeon, Esq.; Arthur I. Dasent, Esq.; Horace West, Esq.
Assistant Clerks——Henry A. Ferguson-Davie, Esq.; Arthur H. Ellis, Esq.; Percy A. Bull, Esq.; F. R. Williams Wynn, Esq.; W. E. Grey, Esq.; F. C. Holland, Esq.; J. W. G. Bond, Esq.; H. C. Dawkins, Esq.; R. P. Colomb, Esq.; B. H. Fell, Esq.; R. E. Childers, Esq.; J. Scott Porter, Esq.
Junior Clerks——F. C. Bramwell, Esq.; W. T. Legge, Esq.; C. R. Turner, Esq.; W. K. Gibbons, Esq.; W. P. Johnston, Esq.; J. Barlow, Esq.; Hon. H. R. C. Balfour; R. N. Bailey, Esq.; G. F. M. Campion, Esq.; S. de la Poer Beresford, Esq.; H. S. Green, Esq.

Serjeant-at-Arms——H. D. Erskine, Esq., C.V.O.
Deputy Serjeant——F. R. Gosset, Esq.
Assistant Serjeant——W. H. Erskine, Esq.
Office Messenger——Mr. C. J. H. Shearn.
Chaplain to the House——The Ven. Archdeacon Basil Wilberforce, D.D.
Secretary to the Speaker——Hon. Edward Gully, C.B.
Counsel to the Speaker——Hon. Sir E. Chandos Leigh, K.C., K.C.B.
Trainbearer——Mr. W. Murrell.
Messenger——Mr. W. Holt.
Collector of Fees on Private Bills——C. L. Lockton, Esq.
Clerk to Referees——Sir E. H. Doyle, Bart.
Examiners of Private Bills——C. W. Campion, Esq. ; J. F. Symons Jeune, Esq.
Taxing Master——C. W. Campion, Esq. ; Clerk——F. C. Bramwell, Esq.
Vote Office——
  Principal Clerk——Philip Smith, Esq.
  Assistant Clerks——John Poyser, Esq. ; W. K. Sanderson, Esq.
  Messenger——Mr. John Edwards.
Librarian——R. C. Walpole, Esq. ; Assistant Librarian——A. E. A. W. Smyth, Esq. Clerks in Library——Messrs. J. R. Crimp, Wm. Stewart ; Messengers——Messrs. A. Firmin, W. Hague.
Shorthand Writer——W. H. Gurney Salter, Esq.
Printers——
  Journals——G. E. Briscoe Eyre, Esq.
  Votes——J. B. Nichols, Esq. (for H. M. Stationery Office.)
Postmaster——Mr. I. Lincoln ; Hall Keeper——Mr. J. Glynn.
Office Keeper——Mr. H. Bullock.
Office Clerk in Committee Office——Mr. T. Fielden Mitchell.
Office Clerk in Journal Office——Mr. A. A. Taylor.
Messengers——Messrs. C. Davie, H. Jones, G. D. Weller, J. Armstrong, J. Woodward, J. Ivory, G. Norman, J. Surrey, A. Sepple.
Doorkeepers——Mr. M. Inglefield and Mr. H. Hambling.
Messengers (1st Class)——Mr. C. Woodcraft, Mr. R. Robertson, Mr. J. Hills, Mr. J. Sprague, Mr. A. Andrews, Mr. T. B. Spray, Mr. G. Anstey, Mr. J. H. Day, Mr. J. Henderson, Mr. G. Wainwright, Mr. J. Guyatt.
Messengers (2nd Class)——Messrs. R. Turtle, A. Haskell, A. C. Johnson, G. Clapperton, H. E. Linington, H. G. Emmett, J. L. Philip, W. Findlay, W. Macdonald, W. R. Brimson.
Superintendent of Members' Waiting Room——Mr. J. F. Henley ; Assistant——Mr. W. Broadbent ; Porters——Messrs. J. Hart and G. Fry.
Inspector of Police attending the House of Commons——Mr. Scantlebury.

AN ALPHABETICAL LIST

OF THE

LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

OF

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

7 EDWARD VII. 1907.

NOTE.—*The Figures in the Margin refer to the corresponding Figures on the Roll.*

A

36	Abercorn, James Marquess of. (*Duke of Abercorn*)
351	Abercromby, George Ralph Lord
470	Aberdare, Henry Campbell Lord
49	Abergavenny, William Marquess of
73	Abingdon, Montagu Arthur Earl of
399	Abinger, Shelley Leopold Laurence Lord
463	Acton, Richard Maximilian Lord
532	Addington, Egerton Lord
44	Ailesbury, Henry Augustus Marquess of
46	Ailsa, Archibald Marquess of
3	Albany, His Royal Highness Leopold Charles Edward George Albert Duke of
75	Albemarle, Arnold Allan Cecil Earl of
560	Aldenham, Henry Hucks Lord
480	Alington, Humphrey Napier Lord
621	Allendale, Wentworth Blackett Lord
587	Allerton, William Lawies Lord
199 & 240	Althorp, Charles Robert Viscount. (*Lord Chamberlain of the Household*)
584	Alverstone, Richard Everard Lord
156	Amherst, William Archer Earl
540	Amherst of Hackney, William Amhurst Lord
492	Ampthill, Arthur Oliver Villiers Lord
190	Ancaster, Gilbert Henry Earl of
42	Anglesey, Charles Henry Alexander Marquess of
442	Annaly, Luke Lord
122	Annesley, Hugh Earl. (*Elected for Ireland*)
488	Ardilaun, Arthur Edward Lord
30	Argyll, John Douglas Sutherland Duke of
620	Armitstead, George Lord
595	Armstrong, William Henry Armstrong FitzPatrick Lord
284	Arundell of Wardour, Edward Aloysius Gonzaga Lord

510	Ashbourne, Edward Lord
96	Ashburnham, Bertram Earl of
401	Ashburton, Francis Denzil Edward Lord
537	Ashcombe, George Lord
555	Ashton, James Lord
598	Atkinson, John Lord. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary.*)
327	Auckland, William Morton Lord
580	Avebury, John Lord
91	Aylesford, Charles Wightwick Earl of

B

312	Bagot, William Lord
459	Balinhard, Charles Noel Lord. (*Earl of Southesk*)
296	Balfour of Burley, Alexander Hugh Lord. (*Elected for Scotland*)
126	Bandon, James Francis Earl of (*Elected for Ireland*)
208	Bangor, Henry William Crosbie Viscount. (*Elected for Ireland*)
262	Bangor, Watkin Herbert Bishop of
291	Barnard, Henry de Vere Lord
588	Barrymore, Arthur Hugh Lord
529	Basing, George Limbrey Lord
407	Bateman, William Spencer Lord
35	Bath, Thomas Henry Marquess of
254	Bath and Wells, George Wyndham Bishop of
108	Bathurst, Seymour Henry Earl
545	Battersea, Cyril Lord
149	Beauchamp, William Earl
13	Beaufort, Henry Adelbert Wellington Fitzroy Duke of
16	Bedford, Herbrand Arthur Duke of
297	Belhaven and Stenton, Alexander Charles Lord. (*Elected for Scotland*)
424	Bellew, Charles Bertram Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
125	Belmore, Somerset Richard Earl of. (*Elected for Ireland*)
430	Belper, Henry Lord
72	Berkeley, Randal Mowbray Thomas Earl of
317	Berwick, Richard Henry Lord
593	Biddulph, Michael Lord
265	Birmingham, Charles Bishop of.
538	Blythswood, Archibald Campbell Lord
202	Bolingbroke and St. John, ——— Viscount
335	Bolton, William Thomas Lord
294	Borthwick, Archibald Patrick Thomas Lord. (*Elected for Scotland*)
304	Boston, George Florance Lord
274	Botreaux, Charles Edward Hastings Lord. (*Earl of Loudoun*)
525	Bowes, Claude George Lord. (*Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorn*)
298	Boyle, Charles Spencer Canning Lord. (*Earl of Cork and Orrery*)
491	Brabourne, Edward Lord
148	Bradford, George Cecil Orlando Earl of
576	Brampton, Henry Lord
450	Brancepeth, Gustavus Russell Lord. (*Viscount Boyne*)
20	Brandon, Alfred Douglas Duke of
523	Brassey, Thomas Lord
323	Braybrooke, Henry Lord
278	Braye, Alfred Thomas Townshend Lord
50	Breadalbane, Gavin Marquess of
223	Bridport, Arthur Wellington Alexander Nelson Viscount
45	Bristol, Frederick William John Marquess of
260	Bristol, George Forrest Bishop of
332	Brodrick, William Lord. (*Viscount Midleton*)
99	Brooke, Francis Richard Charles Guy Earl, and Earl of Warwick
438	Brougham and Vaux, Henry Charles Lord
145	Brownlow, Adelbert Wellington Brownlow Earl
100	Buckinghamshire, Sidney Carr Earl of
556	Burghclere, Herbert Coulstoun Lord
592	Burnham, Edward Levy Lord
521	Burton, Michael Arthur Lord
38	Bute, John Marquess of
288	Byron, George Frederick William Lord

C

116 Cadogan, George Henry Earl
182 Cairns, Wilfred Dallas Earl
333 Calthorpe, Augustus Cholmondeley Lord
41 Camden, John Charles Marquess
275 Camoys, Ralph Francis Julian Lord
159 Camperdown, Robert Adam Philips Haldane Earl of
4 Canterbury, Randall Thomas Archbishop of
218 Canterbury, Henry Charles Viscount
410 Carew, Robert Shapland George Julian Lord
320 Carleton, Richard Bernard Lord. (*Earl of Shannon*)
69 Carlisle, George James Earl of
115 Carnarvon, George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Earl of
85 Carnwath, Robert Harris Carnwath Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)
191 Carrington, Charles Robert Earl
350 Carysfort, William Lord. (*Earl of Carysfort*)
360 Castlemaine, Albert Edward Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
462 Castletown, Bernard Edward Barnaby Lord
143 Cathcart, Alan Earl
157 Cawdor, Frederick Archibald Vaughan Earl
391 Chaworth, Reginald Lord. (*Earl of Meath*)
434 Chelmsford, Frederic John Napier Lord
433 Chesham, Charles Compton William Lord
250 Chester, Francis John Bishop of
66 Chesterfield, Edwyn Francis Earl of
531 Cheylesmore, Herbert Francis Lord
131 Chichester, Jocelyn Brudenell Earl of
246 Chichester, Ernest Roland Bishop of
43 Cholmondeley, George Henry Hugh Marquess of
236 Churchill, Victor Albert Francis Charles Viscount
435 Churston, John Lord
216 Clancarty, William Frederick Viscount. (*Earl of Clancarty*)
384 Clanwilliam, Richard James Lord. (*Earl of Clanwilliam*)
110 Clarendon, Edward Hyde Earl of
389 Clements, Charles Lord. (*Earl of Leitrim*)
290 Clifford of Chudleigh, Lewis Henry Hugh Lord
271 Clinton, Charles John Robert Lord
343 Clonbrock, Luke Gerald Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
396 Cloncurry, Valentine Frederick Lord
203 Cobham, Charles George Viscount
365 Colchester, Reginald Charles Edward Lord
615 Colebrooke, Edward Arthur Lord
472 Coleridge, Bernard John Seymour Lord
235 Colville of Culross, Charles Robert William Viscount
217 Combermere, Francis Lynch Wellington Viscount
423 Congleton, Henry Bligh Fortescue Lord
2 Connaught and Strathearn, His Royal Highness Arthur William Patrick Albert Duke of
172 Cottenham, Kenelm Charles Edward Earl of
474 Cottesloe, Thomas Francis Lord
616 Courtney of Penwith, Leonard Henry Lord
76 Coventry, George William Earl of
173 Cowley, Henry Arthur Mornington Earl
189 Cranbrook, John Stewart Earl of
577 Cranworth, Bertram Francis Lord
128 Craven, William George Robert Earl of
539 Crawshaw, Thomas Lord
7 & 192 Crewe, Robert Offley Ashburton Earl of. (*Lord President of the Council.*)
345 Crofton, Edward Henry Churchill Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
196 Cromer, Evelyn Earl of
227 Cross, Richard Assheton Viscount
25 Cumberland and Teviotdale, His Royal Highness Ernest Augustus William Adolphus George Fredk. Duke of

D

120 Darnley, Ivo Francis Walter Earl of. (*Elected for Ireland*)
89 Dartmouth, William Heneage Earl of
178 Dartrey, Vesey Earl of
552 Davey, Horace Lord. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary*)
566 Dawnay, Hugh Richard Lord. (*Viscount Downe*)
270 de Clifford, Jack Southwell Lord
426 De Freyne, Arthur Lord
105 De La Warr, Gilbert Geo. Reginald Earl
400 De L'Isle and Dudley, Philip Lord
411 De Mauley, William Ashley Webb Lord
530 De Ramsey, William Henry Lord
267 de Ros, Dudley Charles Lord
397 de Saumarez, James St. Vincent Lord
373 Delamere, Hugh Lord
61 Denbigh, Rudolph Robert Basil Aloysius Augustine Earl of
398 Denman, Thomas Lord
512 Deramore, Robert Wilfrid Lord
56 Derby, Frederick Arthur Earl of
496 Derwent, Harcourt Lord
606 Desborough, William Henry Lord
59 Devon, Charles Pepys Earl of
17 Devonshire, Spencer Compton Duke of
307 Digby, Edward Henry Trafalgar Lord
310 Dinevor, Arthur de Cardonnel Lord
70 Doncaster, William Henry Walter Earl of. (*Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry*)
285 Dormer, Ronald John Lord
476 Douglas, Charles Alexander Lord. (*Earl of Home*)
119 Drogheda, Ponsonby William Earl of. (*Elected for Ireland*)
164 Ducie, Henry John Earl of
175 Dudley, William Humble Earl of
51 Dufferin and Ava, Terence John Temple Marquess of
348 Dunalley, Henry O'Callaghan Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
338 Dunboyne, Robert St. John FitzWalter Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
87 Dundonald, Douglas Mackinnon Baillie Hamilton Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)
596 Dunedin, Andrew Graham Lord.
542 Dunleath, Henry Lyle Lord
392 Dunmore, Charles Adolphus Lord. (*Earl of Dunmore*)
458 Dunning, John Lord. (*Lord Rollo*)
161 Durham, John George Earl of
244 Durham, Handley Carr Glyn Bishop of

E

432 Ebury, Robert Wellesley Lord
163 Effingham, Henry Alexander Gordon Earl of
193 Egerton, Wilbraham Earl
150 Eldon, John Earl of
425 Elgin, Victor Alexander Lord. (*Earl of Elgin and Kincardine*)
352 Ellenborough, Edward Downes Lord
170 Ellesmere, Francis Charles Granville Earl of
514 Elphinstone, Sidney Herbert Lord
473 Emly, Thomas William Gaston Lord
355 Erskine, William Macnaghten Lord
231 Esher, Reginald Baliol Viscount
68 Essex, George Devereux de Vere Earl of
594 Estcourt, George Thomas John Lord
468 Ettrick, William John George Lord (*Lord Napier*)
617 Eversley, George John Lord
39 Exeter, William Thomas Brownlow Marquess of
266 Exeter, Archibald Bishop of
214 Exmouth, Edward Addington Hargreaves Viscount

F

605 Faber, Edmund Beckett Lord
565 Fairlie, David Lord. (*Earl of Glasgow*)
201 Falkland, Byron Plantagenet Viscount. (*Elected for Scotland*)
204 Falmouth, Evelyn Edward Thomas Viscount
572 Farquhar, Horace Brand Lord
547 Farrer, Thomas Cecil Lord
478 Fermanagh, John Henry Lord. (*Earl Erne*)

88 Ferrers, Sewallis Edward Earl

179 Feversham, William Ernest Earl of

29 Fife, Alexander William George Duke of

387 Fingall, Arthur James Francis Lord. (*Earl of Fingall*)

324 Fisherwick, Edward Arthur Donald St. George Hamilton Lord. (*Marquess of Donegall*)

441 Fitzhardinge, Charles Paget Fitzhardinge Lord

608 Fitzmaurice, Edmond George Petty Lord

101 Fitzwilliam, William Charles De Meuron Earl

309 Foley, Fitzalan Charles John Lord

374 Forester, Cecil Theodore Lord

114 Fortescue, Hugh Earl

363 Foxford, William Henry Edmond de Vere Sheaffe Lord. (*Earl of Limerick*)

G

325 Gage, Henry Charles Lord. (*Viscount Gage*)

169 Gainsborough, Charles William Francis Earl of

358 Gardner, ——— Lord

482 Gerard, Frederic John Lord

376 Gifford, Edric Frederic Lord

619 Glantawe, John Jones Lord

575 Glanusk, Joseph Henry Russell Lord

559 Glenesk, Algernon Lord

213 Gordon, John Campbell Viscount. (*Earl of Aberdeen*)

455 Gormanston, Jenico William Joseph Lord. (*Viscount Gormanston*)

232 Goschen, George Joachim Viscount

221 Gough, Hugh Viscount

12 Grafton, Augustus Charles Lennox Duke of

94 Graham, Douglas Beresford Malise Ronald Earl. (*Duke of Montrose*)

357 Granard, Bernard Arthur William Patrick Hastings Lord. (*Earl of Granard*)

314 Grantley, John Richard Brinsley Lord

162 Granville, Granville George Earl

589 Grenfell, Francis Wallace Lord

465 Greville, Algernon William Fulke Lord

138 Grey, Albert Henry George Earl

273 Grey de Ruthyn, Rawdon George Grey Lord

518 Grimthorpe, Ernest William Lord

362 Grinstead, Lowry Egerton Lord (*Earl of Enniskillen*)

102 Guilford, Frederick George Earl of

334 Gwydir, Peter Robert Lord

H

83 Haddington, George Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)

486 Haldon, Lawrence William Lord

574 Haliburton, Arthur Lawrence Lord

222 Halifax, Charles Lindley Viscount

194 Halsbury, Hardinge Stanley Earl of

522 Hamilton of Dalzell, Gavin George Lord

225 Hampden, Thomas Walter Viscount

475 Hampton, Herbert Stuart Lord

220 Hardinge, Henry Charles Viscount

103 Hardwicke, John Manners Earl of

460 Hare, William Lord. (*Earl of Listowel*)

141 Harewood, Henry Ulick Earl of

479 Harlech, George Ralph Charles Lord

97 Harrington, Charles Augustus Earl of

364 Harris, George Robert Canning Lord

140 Harrowby, John Herbert Dudley Earl of

447 Hartismere, Charles Henry Chandos Lord. (*Lord Henniker*)

269 Hastings, Albert Edward Delaval Lord

402 Hatherton, Edward George Percy Lord

610 Haversham, Arthur Divett Lord

308 Hawke, Martin Bladen Lord

299 Hay, Archibald Fitzroy George Lord. (*Earl of Kinnoul*)

344 Headley, Charles Mark Lord (*Elected for Ireland*)

611 Hemphill, Charles Hare Lord

561 Heneage, Edward Lord

200 Hereford, Robert Viscount

255 Hereford, John Bishop of

504 Herries, Marmaduke Francis Lord.

515 Herschell, Richard Farrer Lord.

37 Hertford, Hugh de Grey Marquess of
382 Heytesbury, Leonard Lord
219 Hill, Rowland Richard Viscount
516 Hillingdon, Charles William Lord
109 Hillsborough, Arthur Wills John Wellington Trumbull Blundell Earl of. (*Marquess of Downshire*)
517 Hindlip, Charles Lord
568 Holm Patrick, Hans Wellesley Lord
207 Hood, Francis Wheler Viscount
497 Hothfield, Henry James Lord
461 Howard of Glossop, Francis Edward Lord
281 Howard de Walden, Thomas Evelyn Lord
151 Howe, Richard George Penn Earl
494 Howth, William Ulick Tristram Lord. (*Earl of Howth*)
57 Huntingdon, Warner Francis John Plantagenet Earl of
215 Hutchinson, Richard Walter John Viscount. (*Earl of Donoughmore*)
448 Hylton, Hylton George Hylton Lord

I

187 Iddesleigh, Walter Stafford Earl of
104 Ilchester, Giles Stephen Holland Earl of
339 Inchiquin, Lucius William Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
166 Innes, Henry John Earl. (*Duke of Roxburghe*)
569 Inverclyde, James Cleland Lord
239 Iveagh, Edward Cecil Viscount

J

557 James, Henry Lord
77 Jersey, Victor Albert George Earl of
612 Joicey, James Lord

K

536 Kelvin, William Lord
390 Kenlis, Geoffrey Thomas Lord. (*Marquess of Headfort*)
429 Kenmare, Valentine Charles Lord. (*Earl of Kenmare*)
445 Kenry, Windham Thomas Lord. (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*)
520 Kensington, Hugh Lord
322 Kenyon, Lloyd Lord
366 Ker, Robert Schomberg Lord. (*Marquess of Lothian*)
451 Kesteven, John Henry Lord
582 Killanin, Martin Henry Lord
342 Kilmaine, Francis William Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
386 Kilmarnock, Charles Gore Lord. (*Earl of Erroll*)
154 Kilmorey, Francis Charles Earl of (*Elected for Ireland*)
177 Kimberley, John Earl of
439 Kinnaird, Arthur Fitz-Gerald Lord
563 Kinnear, Alexander Smith Lord
585 Kinross, Patrick Lord
408 Kintore, Algernon Hawkins Thomond Lord. (*Earl of Kintore*)
234 Kitchener of Khartoum and of the Vaal, Horatio Herbert Viscount
602 Knaresborough, Henry Meysey Lord
590 Knollys, Francis Lord
229 Knutsford, Henry Thurstan Viscount

L

489 Lamington, Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Lord
346 Langford, Hercules Edward Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
32 Lansdowne, Henry Charles Keith Marquess of
184 Lathom, Edward George Earl of
84 Lauderdale, Frederick Henry Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)
457 Lawrence, John Hamilton Lord
436 Leconfield, Charles Henry Lord
15 Leeds, George Godolphin Duke of
167 Leicester, Thomas William Earl of
416 Leigh, William Dudley Lord
206 Leinster, Maurice Viscount. (*Duke of Leinster*)
597 Leith of Fyvie, Alexander John Lord
160 Lichfield, Thomas Francis Earl of
252 Lichfield, Augustus Bishop of
336 Lilford, John Lord
248 Lincoln, Edward Bishop of
581 Lindley, Nathaniel Lord
63 Lindsey, Montague Peregrine Albemarle Earl of

53	Linlithgow, John Adrian Louis Marquess of
564	Lister, Joseph Lord
54 & 198	Liverpool Cecil George Savile Earl of. (*Lord Steward of the Household*)
263	Liverpool, Francis James Bishop of
230	Llandaff, Henry Viscount
543	Llangattock, John Allan Lord
553	Loch, Edward Douglas Lord
349	Loftus, John Henry Lord. (*Marquess of Ely*)
188	Londesborough, William Francis Henry Earl of
243	London, Arthur Foley Bishop of
139	Lonsdale, Hugh Cecil Earl of
5 & 607	Loreburn, Robert Threshie Lord. (*Lord High Chancellor*)
406	Lovat, Simon Joseph Lord
168	Lovelace, Lionel Fortescue Earl of
305	Lovel and Holland, Augustus Arthur Lord. (*Earl of Egmont*)
124	Lucan, George Earl of. (*Elected for Ireland*)
289	Lucas, ——— Lord
567	Ludlow, Henry Ludlow Lord
418	Lurgan, William Lord
183	Lytton, Victor Alexander George Robert Earl of
437	Lyveden, Courtenay Robert Percy Lord

M

93	Macclesfield, George Loveden William Henry Earl of
524	Macnaghten, Edward Lord. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary*)
528	Magheramorne, Dudley Stuart Lord
117	Malmesbury, James Edward Earl of
22	Manchester, William Angus Drogo Duke of
359	Manners, John Thomas Lord
111	Mansfield, William David Earl of
136	Manvers, Charles William Sydney Earl
79	Mar, John Francis Erskine Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)
82	Mar and Kellie, Walter John Francis Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)
18	Marlborough, Charles Richard John Duke of
535	Masham, Samuel Lord
340	Massy, John Thomas William Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
121	Mayo, Dermot Robert Wyndham Earl of. (*Elected for Ireland*)
361	Meldrum, Charles Lord. (*Marquess of Huntly*)
210	Melville, Charles Saunders Viscount
328	Mendip, Thomas Charles Lord. (*Viscount Clifden*)
444	Meredyth, James Herbert Gustavus Meredyth Lord. (*Lord Athlumney*)
414	Methuen, Paul Sanford Lord
604	Michelham, Herbert Lord
300	Middleton, Digby Wentworth Bayard Lord
237	Milner, Alfred Viscount
367	Minster, Victor George Henry Francis Lord. (*Marquess Conyngham*)
142	Minto, Gilbert John Earl of
446	Monck, Henry Power Charles Stanley Lord. (*Viscount Monck*)
526	Monckton, George Edmund Milnes Lord. (*Viscount Galway*)
471	Moncreiff, Henry James Lord
501	Monk Bretton, John William Lord
509	Monkswell, Robert Lord
301	Monson, Augustus Debonnaire John Lord
513	Montagu of Beaulieu, John Walter Edward Lord
356	Monteagle, Henry Ulick Lord. (*Marquess of Sligo*)
419	Monteagle of Brandon, Thomas Spring Lord
147	Morley, Edmund Robert Earl of
81	Morton, Sholto George Watson Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)
394	Mostyn, Llewelyn Nevill Vaughan Lord
113	Mount Edgcumbe, William Henry Earl of
534	Mount Stephen, George Lord
268	Mowbray, Charles Botolph Joseph Lord
573	Muncaster, Josslyn Francis Lord
158	Munster, Aubrey Earl of

341 Muskerry, Hamilton Matthew Fitzmaurice Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)

N

454 Napier, Robert William Lord

134 Nelson, Horatio Earl

23 Newcastle, Henry Pelham Archibald Douglas Duke of

571 Newlands, James Henry Cecil Lord

541 Newton, Thomas Wodehouse Lord

9 Norfolk, Henry Duke of. (*Earl Marshal of England*)

47 Normanby, Constantine Charles Henry Marquess of

279 North, William Henry John Lord

40 Northampton, William George Spencer Scott Marquess of

502 Northbourne, Walter Henry Lord

181 Northbrook, Francis George Earl of

603 Northcliffe, Alfred Charles William Lord

579 Northcote, Henry Stafford Lord

86 Northesk, David John Earl of. (*Elected for Scotland*)

506 Northington, Frederic Lord. (*Lord Henley*)

24 Northumberland, Henry George Duke of

484 Norton, Charles Leigh Lord

253 Norwich, John Bishop of

613 Nunburnholme, Charles Henry Lord

O

583 O'Brien, Peter Lord

466 O'Hagan, Maurice Herbert Ignatius Towneley Lord

453 O'Neill, Edward Lord

129 Onslow, William Hillier Earl of

405 Oranmore and Browne, Geoffrey Henry Browne Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)

137 Orford, Robert Horace Earl of

371 Oriel, Algernon William John Clotworthy Lord. (*Viscount Massereene*)

452 Ormathwaite, Arthur Lord

368 Ormonde, James Edward William Theobald Lord. (*Marquess of Ormonde*)

548 Overtoun, John Campbell Lord

421 Oxenfoord, John Hew North Gustave Henry Lord. (*Earl of Stair*)

264 Oxford, Francis Bishop of

P

228 Peel, Arthur Wellesley Viscount

58 Pembroke and Montgomery, Sidney Earl of

449 Penrhyn, George Sholto Gordon Lord

258 Peterborough, Edward Carr Bishop of

282 Petre, Bernard Henry Philip Lord

618 Pirrie, William James Lord

544 Playfair, George James Lord

381 Plunket, William Lee Lord

197 Plymouth, Robert George Earl of

393 Poltimore, Augustus Frederick George Warwick Lord

302 Ponsonby, Edward Lord. (*Earl of Bessborough*)

21 Portland, William John Arthur Charles James Duke of

224 Portman, William Henry Berkeley Viscount

98 Portsmouth, Newton Earl of

78 Poulett, William John Lydston Earl

505 Powerscourt, Mervyn Richard Lord

133 Powis, George Charles Earl of

R

106 Radnor, Jacob Earl of

428 Raglan, George Fitz-Roy Henry Lord

477 Ramsay, Arthur George Maule Lord. (*Earl of Dalhousie*)

379 Ranfurly, Uchter John Mark Lord. (*Earl of Ranfurly*)

456 Rathdonnell, Thomas Kane Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)

558 Rathmore, David Robert Lord

372 Ravensworth, Arthur Thomas Lord

375 Rayleigh, John William Lord

495 Reay, Donald James Lord

591 Redesdale, Algernon Bertram Lord

550 Rendel, Stuart Lord

508 Revelstoke, John Lord

337 Ribblesdale, Thomas Lord

11 Richmond and Gordon, Charles Henry Duke of

233 Ridley, Matthew White Viscount

8 & 48 Ripon, George Frederick Samuel Marquess of. (*Lord Privy Seal*)

247 Ripon, William Boyd Bishop of

599 Ritchie, of Dundee, Charles Lord

195 Roberts, Frederick Sleigh Earl

578 Robertson, James Patrick Bannerman Lord. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary*)

315 Rodney, George Bridges Harley Dennett Lord

443 Romilly, William Gaspard Guy Lord

130 Romney, Charles Earl of

383 Rosebery, Archibald Philip Lord. (*Earl of Rosebery*)

562 Rosmead, Hercules Arthur Temple Lord

135 Rosse, Lawrence Earl of. (*Elected for Ireland*)

127 Rosslyn, James Francis Harry Earl of

409 Rossmore, Derrick Warner William Lord

80 Rothes, Norman Evelyn. (*Elected for Scotland*).

507 Rothschild, Nathaniel Mayer Lord

176 Russell, John Francis Stanley Earl

19 Rutland, Henry John Brinsley Robert Duke of

S

483 Sackville, Lionel Sackville Lord

14 St. Albans, Charles Victor Albert Aubrey De Vere Duke of

257 St. Albans, Edgar, Bishop of

242 St. Aldwyn, Michael Edward Viscount

251 St. Asaph, Alfred George Bishop of

259 St. Davids, John Bishop of

146 Saint Germans, Henry Cornwallis Earl of

280 St. John of Bletso, Beauchamp Moubray Lord

427 Saint Leonards, Edward Burtenshaw Lord

527 Saint Levan, John Lord

511 Saint Oswald, Rowland Lord

209 St. Vincent, Carnegie Parker Viscount

34 Salisbury, James Edward Hubert Marquess of.

249 Salisbury, John Bishop of

331 Saltersford, James George Henry Lord. (*Earl of Courtown*)

292 Saltoun, Alexander William Fredk. Lord. (*Elected for Scotland*)

600 Sanderson, Thomas Henry Lord

467 Sandhurst, William Lord

67 Sandwich, Edward George Henry Earl of

353 Sandys, Michael Edwin Marcus Lord

533 Savile, John Savile Lord

283 Saye and Sele, John Fiennes Lord

74 Scarbrough, Aldred Fredk. George Beresford Earl of

303 Scarsdale, Alfred Nathaniel Holden Lord

420 Seaton, John Reginald Upton Lord

388 Sefton, Osbert Cecil Lord. (*Earl of Sefton*)

186 Selborne, William Waldegrave Earl of

238 Selby, William Court Viscount

71 Shaftesbury, Anthony Earl of

354 Sheffield, Henry North Lord. (*Earl of Sheffield*)

318 Sherborne, Edward Lennox Lord

55 Shrewsbury, Charles Henry John Earl of

485 Shute, Walter Bulkeley Lord. (*Viscount Barrington*)

586 Shuttleworth, Ughtred James Lord

211 Sidmouth, William Wells Viscount

370 Silchester, Thomas Lord. (*Earl of Longford*)

293 Sinclair, Charles William Lord. (*Elected for Scotland*)

377 Somerhill, Hubert George Lord. (*Marquess of Clanricarde*)

319 Somers, Arthur Herbert Tennyson Lord

10 Somerset, Algernon Duke of

469 Somerton, Sidney James Lord. (*Earl of Normanton*)

185 Sondes, George Edward Earl

313 Southampton, Charles Henry Lord

256 Southwark, Edward Stuart Bishop of

107 Spencer, John Poyntz Earl

287	Stafford, Fitzherbert Lord
519	Stalbridge, Richard de Aquila Lord
64	Stamford, William Earl of
92	Stanhope, James Richard Earl
415	Stanley of Alderley, Edward Lyulph Lord
549	Stanmore, Arthur Lord
330	Stewart of Garlies, Randolph Henry Lord. (*Earl of Galloway*)
152	Stradbroke, George Edward John Mowbray Earl of
171	Strafford, Francis Edmund Cecil Earl of
112	Strange, John James Hugh Henry Earl. (*Duke of Atholl*)
570	Strathcona and Mount Royal, Donald Alexander Lord
404	Stratheden, Hallyburton George Lord
500	Strathspey, James Lord. (*Earl of Seafield*)
329	Stuart of Castle Stuart, Francis James Lord. (*Earl of Moray*)
413	Sudeley, Charles Douglas Richard Lord
503	Sudley, Arthur Jocelyn Charles Lord. (*Earl of Arran*)
321	Suffield, Charles Lord
60	Suffolk and Berkshire, Henry Molyneux Paget Earl of
27	Sutherland, Cromartie Duke of
546	Swansea, Ernest Ambrose Lord

T

431	Talbot de Malahide, Richard Wogan Lord
90	Tankerville, George Montagu Earl of
153	Temple of Stowe, Algernon William Stephen Earl
395	Templemore, Arthur Henry Lord
212	Templetown, Henry Edward Montagu Dorington Clotworthy Viscount. (*Elected for Ireland*)
499	Tennyson, Hallam Lord
380	Tenterden, Charles Stuart Henry Lord
286	Teynham, Henry John Philip Sidney Lord
326	Thurlow, Thomas John Lord
481	Tollemache, Bentley Lyonel John Lord
295	Torphichen, James Walter Lord. (*Elected for Scotland*)
205	Torrington, George Master Viscount
33	Townshend, John James Dudley Stuart Marquess
241	Tredegar, Godfrey Charles Viscount
490	Trevor, Arthur William Lord
493	Tweeddale, William Montagu Lord. (*Marquess of Tweeddale*)
498	Tweedmouth, Edward Lord
319	Tyrone, Henry De La Poer Lord. (*Marquess of Waterford*)

V

155	Vane, Charles Stewart Earl. (*Marquess of Londonderry*)
277	Vaux of Harrowden, Hubert George Charles Lord
347	Ventry, Dayrolles Blakeney Lord. (*Elected for Ireland*)
306	Vernon, George Francis Augustus Lord
144	Verulam, James Walter Earl of
422	Vivian, George Crespigny Brabazon Lord

W

261	Wakefield, George Rodney Bishop of
95	Waldegrave, William Frederick Earl
601	Waleran, William Hood Lord
1	Wales, His Royal Highness The Prince of
311	Walsingham, Thomas Lord
554	Wandsworth, Sydney James Lord
609	Weardale, Philip James Lord
551	Welby, Reginald Earle Lord
26	Wellington, Arthur Charles Duke of
369	Wemyss, Francis Richard Lord. (*Earl of Wemyss*)
417	Wenlock, Beilby Lord
440	Westbury, Richard Luttrell Pilkington Lord
118	Westmeath, Anthony Francis Earl of. (*Elected for Ireland*)
28	Westminster, Hugh Richard Arthur Duke of

62 Westmorland, Anthony Mildmay Julian Earl of

180 Wharncliffe, Francis John Earl of

123 Wicklow, Ralph Francis Earl of. *(Elected for Ireland)*

378 Wigan, James Ludovic Lord. (*Earl of Crawford*)

276 Willoughby de Broke, Richard Greville Lord

132 Wilton, Arthur George Earl of

487 Wimborne, Ivor Bertie Lord

31 Winchester, Henry William Montagu Marquess of

245 Winchester, Herbert Edward Bishop of

65 Winchilsea and Nottingham, Henry Stormont Earl of

614 Winterstoke, William Henry Lord

174 Winton, George Arnulph Earl of. (*Earl of Eglintoun*)

226 Wolseley, Garnet Joseph Viscount

464 Wolverton, Frederick Lord

403 Worlingham, Archibald Brabazon Sparrow Lord. (*Earl of Gosford*)

412 Wrottesley, Arthur Lord

385 Wynford, Philip George Lord

Y

165 Yarborough, Chas. Alfred Worsley Earl of

6 York, William Dalrymple Archbishop of

Z

52 Zetland, Lawrence Marquess of

272 Zouche of Haryngworth, Robert Nathaniel Cecil George Lord

The following Lords have Two Numbers, being Twice named in the Roll :

Lord Loreburn, as Lord High Chancellor, and as Lord Loreburn (Nos. 5 and 607)

Earl of Crewe, as Lord President, and as Earl of Crewe (Nos. 7 and 192)

Marquess of Ripon, as Lord Privy Seal, and as Marquess of Ripon (Nos. 8 and 48)

Earl of Liverpool, as Lord Steward, and as Earl of Liverpool (Nos. 54 and 198)

Viscount Althorp, as Lord Chamberlain, and as Viscount Althorp (Nos. 199 and 240)

ROLL

OF THE

LORDS SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT

OF

THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

---

7 EDWARD VII. 1907.

MEM.—*According to the Usage of Parliament, when the House appoints a Select Committee, the Lords appointed to serve upon it are named in the Order of their Rank, beginning with the Highest; and so, when the House sends a Committee to a Conference with the Commons, the Lord highest in Rank is called first, and the rest go forth in like Order: But when the Whole House is called over for any Purpose, within the House, or for the Purpose of proceeding forth to Westminster Hall, or upon any public Solemnity, the Call begins invariably with the Junior Baron.*

---

1 His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales

2 His Royal Highness Arthur William Patrick Albert Duke of Connaught and Strathearn

3 His Royal Highness Leopold Charles Edward George Albert Duke of Albany

4 Randall Thomas Archbishop of Canterbury

5 Robert Threshie Lord Loreburn, *Lord High Chancellor*

6 William Dalrymple Archbishop of York

7 Robert Offley Ashburton Earl of Crewe, *Lord President of the Council.*

8 George Frederick Samuel Marquess of Ripon *Lord Privy Seal.*

9 Henry Duke of Norfolk, *Earl Marshal of England*

10 Algernon Duke of Somerset

11 Charles Henry Duke of Richmond and Gordon

12 Augustus Charles Lennox Duke of Grafton

13 Henry Adelbert Wellington Fitzroy Duke of Beaufort

14 Charles Victor Albert Aubrey de Vere Duke of St. Albans

15 George Godolphin Duke of Leeds
16 Herbrand Arthur Duke of Bedford
17 Spencer Compton Duke of Devonshire.
18 Charles Richard John Duke of Marlborough
19 Henry John Brinsley Duke of Rutland
20 Alfred Douglas Duke of Brandon
21 William John Arthur Charles James Duke of Portland
22 William Angus Drogo Duke of Manchester
23 Henry Pelham Archibald Douglas Duke of Newcastle
24 Henry George Duke of Northumberland
25 His Royal Highness Ernest Augustus William Adolphus George Frederick Duke of Cumberland and Teviotdale
26 Arthur Charles Duke of Wellington
27 Cromartie Duke of Sutherland
28 Hugh Richard Arthur Duke of Westminster
29 Alexander William George Duke of Fife
30 John Douglas Sutherland Duke of Argyll
31 Henry William Montagu Marquess of Winchester
32 Henry Charles Keith Marquess of Lansdowne
33 John James Dudley Stuart Marquess Townshend
34 James Edward Hubert Marquess of Salisbury.
35 Thomas Henry Marquess of Bath
36 James Marquess of Abercorn. (*Duke of Abercorn*)
37 Hugh de Grey Marquess of Hertford
38 John Marquess of Bute
39 William Thomas Brownlow Marquess of Exeter
40 William George Spencer Scott Marquess of Northampton
41 John Charles Marquess Camden
42 Charles Henry Alexander Marquess of Anglesey
43 George Henry Hugh Marquess of Cholmondeley.
44 Henry Augustus Marquess of Ailesbury
45 Frederick William John Marquess of Bristol
46 Archibald Marquess of Ailsa
47 Constantine Charles Henry Marquess of Normanby
48 George Frederick Samuel Marquess of Ripon (*In another place as Lord Privy Seal.*)
49 William Marquess of Abergavenny
50 Gavin Marquess of Breadalbane
51 Terence John Temple Marquess of Dufferin and Ava
52 Lawrence Marquess of Zetland
53 John Adrian Louis Marquess of Linlithgow
54 Cecil George Savile Earl of Liverpool, *Lord Steward of the Household.*
55 Charles Henry John Earl of Shrewsbury
56 Frederick Arthur Earl of Derby
57 Warner Francis John Plantagenet Earl of Huntingdon
58 Sidney Earl of Pembroke and Montgomery.
59 Charles Pepys Earl of Devon
60 Henry Molyneux Paget Earl of Suffolk and Berkshire
61 Rudolph Robert Basil Aloysius Augustine Earl of Denbigh
62 Anthony Mildmay Julian Earl of Westmorland
63 Montague Peregrine Albemarle Earl of Lindsey
64 William Earl of Stamford
65 Henry Stormont Earl of Winchilsea and Nottingham
66 Edwyn Francis Earl of Chesterfield
67 Edward George Henry Earl of Sandwich
68 George Devereux de Vere Earl of Essex
69 George James Earl of Carlisle
70 William Henry Walter Earl of Doncaster. (*Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry*)

71 Anthony Earl of Shaftesbury
72 Randal Mowbray Thomas Earl of Berkeley
73 Montagu Arthur Earl of Abingdon
74 Aldred Frederick George Beresford Earl of Scarborough
75 Arnold Allan Cecil Earl of Albemarle
76 George William Earl of Coventry
77 Victor Albert George Earl of Jersey
78 William John Lydston Earl Poulett
79 John Francis Erskine Earl of Mar. (*Elected for Scotland*)
80 Norman Evelyn Earl of Rothes. (*Elected for Scotland*)
81 Sholto George Watson Earl of Morton. (*Elected for Scotland*)
82 Walter John Francis Earl of Mar and Kellie. (*Elected for Scotland*)
83 George Earl of Haddington. (*Elected for Scotland*)
84 Frederick Henry Earl of Lauderdale. (*Elected for Scotland*)
85 Robert Harris Carnwath Earl of Carnwath. (*Elected for Scotland*)
86 David John Earl of Northesk. (*Elected for Scotland*)
87 Douglas Mackinnon Baillie Hamilton Earl of Dundonald. (*Elected for Scotland*)
88 Sewallis Edward Earl Ferrers
89 William Heneage Earl of Dartmouth
90 George Montagu Earl of Tankerville
91 Charles Wightwick Earl of Aylesford
92 James Richard Earl Stanhope
93 George Loveden William Henry Earl of Macclesfield
94 Douglas Beresford Malise Ronald Earl Graham. (*Duke of Montrose*)
95 William Frederick Earl Waldegrave
96 Bertram Earl of Ashburnham
97 Charles Augustus Earl of Harrington
98 Newton Earl of Portsmouth
99 Francis Richard Charles Guy Earl Brooke and Earl of Warwick
100 Sidney Carr Earl of Buckinghamshire
101 William Charles De Meuron Earl Fitzwilliam
102 Frederick George Earl of Guilford
103 John Manners Earl of Hardwicke
104 Giles Stephen Holland Earl of Ilchester
105 Gilbert George Reginald Earl De La Warr
106 Jacob Earl of Radnor
107 John Poyntz Earl Spencer
108 Seymour Henry Earl Bathurst
109 Arthur Wills John Wellington Trumbull Blundell Earl of Hillsborough. (*Marquess of Downshire*)
110 Edward Hyde Earl of Clarendon
111 Alan David Earl of Mansfield
112 John James Hugh Henry Earl Strange. (*Duke of Atholl*)
113 William Henry Earl of Mount Edgcumbe
114 Hugh Earl Fortescue
115 George Edward Stanhope Molyneux Earl of Carnarvon
116 George Henry Earl Cadogan
117 James Edward Earl of Malmesbury
118 Anthony Francis Earl of Westmeath. (*Elected for Ireland*)
119 Ponsonby William Earl of Drogheda. (*Elected for Ireland*)
120 Ivo Francis Walter Earl of Darnley. (*Elected for Ireland*)
121 Dermot Robert Wyndham Earl of Mayo. (*Elected for Ireland*)
122 Hugh Earl Annesley. (*Elected for Ireland*)
123 Ralph Francis Earl of Wicklow. (*Elected for Ireland*)
124 George Earl of Lucan. (*Elected for Ireland*)
125 Somerset Richard Earl of Belmore. (*Elected for Ireland*)
126 James Francis Earl of Bandon. (*Elected for Ireland*)
127 James Francis Harry Earl of Rosslyn
128 William George Robert Earl of Craven
129 William Hillier Earl of Onslow

130 Charles Earl of Romney
131 Jocelyn Brudenell Earl of Chichester
132 Arthur George Earl of Wilton
133 George Charles Earl of Powis
134 Horatio Earl Nelson
135 Lawrence Earl of Rosse. (*Elected for Ireland*)
136 Charles William Sydney Earl Manvers
137 Robert Horace Earl of Orford
138 Albert Henry George Earl Grey
139 Hugh Cecil Earl of Lonsdale
140 John Herbert Dudley Earl of Harrowby
141 Henry Ulick Earl of Harewood
142 Gilbert John Earl of Minto
143 Alan Earl Cathcart
144 James Walter Earl of Verulam
145 Adelbert Wellington Brownlow Earl Brownlow
146 Henry Cornwallis Earl of Saint Germans
147 Edmund Robert Earl of Morley
148 George Cecil Orlando Earl of Bradford
149 William Earl Beauchamp
150 John Earl of Eldon
151 Richard George Penn Earl Howe
152 George Edward John Mowbray Earl of Stradbroke
153 Algernon William Stephen Earl Temple of Stowe
154 Francis Charles Earl of Kilmorey (*Elected for Ireland*)
155 Charles Stewart Earl Vane (*Marquess of Londonderry*)
156 William Archer Earl Amherst
157 Frederick Archibald Vaughan Earl Cawdor
158 Aubrey Earl of Munster
159 Robert Adam Philips Haldane Earl of Camperdown
160 Thomas Francis Earl of Lichfield
161 John George Earl of Durham
162 Granville George Earl Granville
163 Henry Alexander Gordon Earl of Effingham
164 Henry John Earl of Ducie
165 Charles Alfred Worsley Earl of Yarborough
166 Henry John Earl Innes. (*Duke of Roxburghe*)
167 Thomas William Earl of Leicester
168 Lionel Fortescue Earl of Lovelace
169 Charles William Francis Earl of Gainsborough
170 Francis Charles Granville Earl of Ellesmere
171 Francis Edmund Cecil Earl of Strafford
172 Kenelm Charles Edward Earl of Cottenham
173 Henry Arthur Mornington Earl Cowley
174 George Arnulph Earl of Winton. (*Earl of Eglintoun*)
175 William Humble Earl of Dudley
176 John Francis Stanley Earl Russell
177 John Earl of Kimberley
178 Vesey Earl of Dartrey
179 William Ernest Earl of Feversham
180 Francis John Earl of Wharncliffe
181 Francis George Earl of Northbrook
182 Wilfrid Dallas Earl Cairns
183 Victor Alexander George Robert Earl of Lytton
184 Edward George Earl of Lathom
185 George Edward Earl Sondes
186 William Waldegrave Earl of Selborne
187 Walter Stafford Earl of Iddesleigh
188 William Francis Henry Earl of Londesborough
189 John Stewart Earl of Cranbrook
190 Gilbert Henry Earl of Ancaster
191 Charles Robert Earl Carrington
192 Robert Offley Ashburton Earl of Crewe. (*In another place as Lord President of the Council*)
193 Wilbraham Earl Egerton
194 Hardinge Stanley Earl of Halsbury
195 Frederick Sleigh Earl Roberts
196 Evelyn Earl of Cromer
197 Robert George Earl of Plymouth
198 Cecil George Savile Earl of Liverpool. (*In another place as Lord Steward of the Household*)
199 Charles Robert Viscount Althorp, *Lord Chamberlain of the Household.*
200 Robert Viscount Hereford

201 Byron Plantagenet Viscount Falkland. (*Elected for Scotland*)
202 ——— Viscount Bolingbroke and St. John
203 Charles George Viscount Cobham
204 Evelyn Edward Thomas Viscount Falmouth
205 George Master Viscount Torrington
206 Maurice Viscount Leinster. (*Duke of Leinster*)
207 Francis Wheler Viscount Hood
208 Henry William Crosbie Viscount Bangor. (*Elected for Ireland*)
209 Carnegie Parker Viscount St. Vincent
210 Charles Saunders Viscount Melville
211 William Wells Viscount Sidmouth
212 Henry Edward Montagu Dorington Clotworthy Viscount Templetown. (*Elected for Ireland*)
213 John Campbell Viscount Gordon (*Earl of Aberdeen*)
214 Edward Addington Hargreaves Viscount Exmouth
215 Richard Walter John Viscount Hutchinson. (*Earl of Donoughmore*)
216 William Frederick Viscount Clancarty. (*Earl of Clancarty*)
217 Francis Lynch Wellington Viscount Combermere
218 Henry Charles Viscount Canterbury
219 Rowland Richard Viscount Hill
220 Henry Charles Viscount Hardinge
221 Hugh Viscount Gough
222 Charles Lindley Viscount Halifax
223 Arthur Wellington Alexander Nelson Viscount Bridport
224 William Henry Berkeley Viscount Portman
225 Thomas Walter Viscount Hampden
226 Garnet Joseph Viscount Wolseley
227 Richard Assheton Viscount Cross
228 Arthur Wellesley Viscount Peel
229 Henry Thurstan Viscount Knutsford
230 Henry Viscount Llandaff
231 Reginald Baliol Viscount Esher
232 George Joachim Viscount Goschen
233 Matthew White Viscount Ridley
234 Horatio Herbert Viscount Kitchener of Khartoum and of the Vaal.
235 Charles Robert William Viscount Colville of Culross.
236 Victor Albert Francis Charles Viscount Churchill
237 Alfred Viscount Milner
238 William Court Viscount Selby
239 Edward Cecil Viscount Iveagh
240 Charles Robert Viscount Althorp. (*In another place as Lord Chamberlain of the Household*)
241 Godfrey Charles Viscount Tredegar
242 Michael Edward Viscount St. Aldwyn.
243 Arthur Foley Bishop of London
244 Handley Carr Glyn Bishop of Durham
245 Herbert Edward Bishop of Winchester
246 Ernest Roland Bishop of Chichester
247 William Boyd Bishop of Ripon
248 Edward Bishop of Lincoln
249 John Bishop of Salisbury
250 Francis John Bishop of Chester
251 Alfred George Bishop of St. Asaph
252 Augustus Bishop of Lichfield
253 John Bishop of Norwich
254 George Wyndham Bishop of Bath and Wells
255 John Bishop of Hereford
256 Edward Stuart Bishop of Southwark
257 Edgar Bishop of St. Albans
258 Edward Carr Bishop of Peterborough
259 John Bishop of St. David's
260 George Forrest Bishop of Bristol.
261 George Rodney Bishop of Wakefield
262 Watkin Herbert Bishop of Bangor
263 Francis James Bishop of Liverpool
264 Francis Bishop of Oxford.
265 Charles Bishop of Birmingham
266 Archibald Bishop of Exeter
267 Dudley Charles Lord de Ros.
268 Charles Botolph Joseph Lord Mowbray
269 Albert Edward Delaval Lord Hastings

270 Jack Southwell Lord de Clifford
271 Charles John Robert Lord Clinton
272 Robert Nathaniel Cecil George Lord Zouche of Haryngworth
273 Rawdon George Grey Lord Grey de Ruthyn
274 Charles Edward Hastings Lord Botreaux. (*Earl of Loudoun*)
275 Ralph Francis Julian Lord Camoys
276 Richard Greville Lord Willoughby de Broke
277 Hubert George Charles Lord Vaux of Harrowden
278 Alfred Thomas Townshend Lord Braye
279 William Henry John Lord North
280 Beauchamp Moubray Lord St. John of Bletso
281 Thomas Evelyn Lord Howard de Walden
282 Bernard Henry Philip Lord Petre
283 John Fiennes Lord Saye and Sele
284 Everard Aloysius Gonzaga Lord Arundell of Wardour
285 Ronald John Lord Dormer
286 Henry John Philip Sidney Lord Teynham
287 Fitzherbert Lord Stafford
288 George Frederick William Lord Byron
289 ———— Lord Lucas
290 Lewis Henry Hugh Lord Clifford of Chudleigh
291 Henry de Vere Lord Barnard
292 Alexander William Frederick Lord Saltoun. (*Elected for Scotland*)
293 Charles William Lord Sinclair. (*Elected for Scotland*)
294 Archibald Patrick Thomas Lord Borthwick (*Elected for Scotland*)
295 James Walter Lord Torphichen. (*Elected for Scotland*)
296 Alexander Hugh Lord Balfour of Burley. (*Elected for Scotland*)
297 Alexander Charles Lord Belhaven and Stenton. (*Elected for Scotland*)
298 Charles Spencer Canning Lord Boyle. (*Earl of Cork and Orrery*).
299 Archibald Fitzroy George Lord Hay. (*Earl of Kinnoul*)
300 Digby Wentworth Bayard Lord Middleton
301 Augustus Debonnaire John Lord Monson
302 Edward Lord Ponsonby. (*Earl of Bessborough*)
303 Alfred Nathaniel Holden Lord Scarsdale
304 George Florance Lord Boston
305 Augustus Arthur Lord Lovel and Holland. (*Earl of Egmont*)
306 George Francis Augustus Lord Vernon
307 Edward Henry Trafalgar Lord Digby
308 Martin Bladen Lord Hawke
309 Fitzalan Charles John Lord Foley
310 Arthur de Cardonnel Lord Dinevor
311 Thomas Lord Walsingham
312 William Lord Bagot
313 Charles Henry Lord Southampton
314 John Richard Brinsley Lord Grantley
315 George Bridges Harley Dennett Lord Rodney
316 Arthur Herbert Tennyson Lord Somers
317 Richard Henry Lord Berwick
318 Edward Lennox Lord Sherborne
319 Henry De La Poer Lord Tyrone (*Marquess of Waterford*)
320 Richard Bernard Lord Carleton. (*Earl of Shannon*)
321 Charles Lord Suffield
322 Lloyd Lord Kenyon
323 Henry Lord Braybrooke
324 Edward Arthur Donald St. George Hamilton Lord Fisherwick. (*Marquess of Donegall*)
325 Henry Charles Lord Gage. (*Viscount Gage*)
326 Thomas John Lord Thurlow
327 William Morton Lord Auckland
328 Thomas Charles Lord Mendip, (*Viscount Clifden*)
329 Francis James Lord Stuart of Castle Stuart. (*Earl of Moray*)
330 Randolph Henry Lord Stewart of Garlies. (*Earl of Galloway*)

331 James George Henry Lord Saltersford. (*Earl of Courtown*)

332 William Lord Brodrick. (*Viscount Midleton*)

333 Augustus Cholmondeley Lord Calthorpe

334 Peter Robert Lord Gwydir

335 William Thomas Lord Bolton

336 John Lord Lilford

337 Thomas Lord Ribblesdale

338 Robert St. John FitzWalter Lord Dunboyne. (*Elected for Ireland*)

339 Lucius William Lord Inchiquin. (*Elected for Ireland*)

340 John Thomas William Lord Massy. (*Elected for Ireland*)

341 Hamilton Matthew Fitzmaurice Lord Muskerry. (*Elected for Ireland*)

342 Francis William Lord Kilmaine. (*Elected for Ireland*)

343 Luke Gerald Lord Clonbrock (*Elected for Ireland*)

344 Charles Mark Lord Headley. (*Elected for Ireland*)

345 Edward Henry Churchill Lord Crofton. (*Elected for Ireland*)

346 Hercules Edward Lord Langford (*Elected for Ireland*)

347 Dayrolles Blakeney Lord Ventry (*Elected for Ireland*)

348 Henry O'Callaghan Lord Dunalley (*Elected for Ireland*)

349 John Henry Lord Loftus. (*Marquess of Ely*)

350 William Lord Carysfort. (*Earl of Carysfort*)

351 George Ralph Lord Abercromby

352 Edward Downes Lord Ellenborough

353 Michael Edwin Marcus Lord Sandys

354 Henry North Lord Sheffield. (*Earl of Sheffield*)

355 William Macnaghten Lord Erskine

356 Henry Ulick Lord Monteagle (*Marquess of Sligo*)

357 Bernard Arthur William Patrick Hastings Lord Granard. (*Earl of Granard*)

358 ——————— Lord Gardner

359 John Thomas Lord Manners

360 Albert Edward Lord Castlemaine. (*Elected for Ireland*)

361 Charles Lord Meldrum. (*Marquess of Huntly*)

362 Lowry Egerton Lord Grinstead. (*Earl of Enniskillen*)

363 William Henry Edmond de Vere Sheaffe Lord Foxford. (*Earl of Limerick*)

364 George Robert Canning Lord Harris

365 Reginald Charles Edward Lord Colchester

366 Robert Schomberg Lord Ker. (*Marquess of Lothian*)

367 Victor George Henry Francis Lord Minster. (*Marquess Conyngham*)

368 James Edward William Theobald Lord Ormonde. (*Marquess of Ormonde*)

369 Francis Richard Lord Wemyss. (*Earl of Wemyss*)

370 Thomas Lord Silchester. (*Earl of Longford*)

371 Algernon William John Clotworthy Lord Oriel. (*Viscount Massereene*)

372 Arthur Thomas Lord Ravensworth

373 Hugh Lord Delamere

374 Cecil Theodore Lord Forester

375 John William Lord Rayleigh

376 Edric Frederic Lord Gifford

377 Hubert George Lord Somerhill. (*Marquess of Clanricarde*)

378 James Ludovic Lord Wigan. (*Earl of Crawford*)

379 Uchter John Mark Lord Ranfurly. (*Earl of Ranfurly*)

380 Charles Stuart Henry Lord Tenterden

381 William Lee Lord Plunket

382 Leonard Lord Heytesbury

383 Archibald Philip Lord Rosebery. (*Earl of Rosebery*)

384 Richard James Lord Clanwilliam. (*Earl of Clanwilliam*)

385 Philip George Lord Wynford

386 Charles Gore Lord Kilmarnock. (*Earl of Erroll*)

387 Arthur James Francis Lord Fingall. (*Earl of Fingall*)

388 Osbert Cecil Lord Sefton. (*Earl of Sefton*)

389 Charles Lord Clements. (*Earl of Leitrim*)

390 Geoffrey Thomas Lord Kenlis. (*Marquess of Headfort*)

391 Reginald Lord Chaworth. (*Earl of Meath*)

392 Charles Adolphus Lord Dunmore. (*Earl of Dunmore*)

393 Augustus Frederick George Warwick Lord Poltimore

394 Llewelyn Nevill Vaughan Lord Mostyn

395 Arthur Henry Lord Templemore

396 Valentine Frederick Lord Cloncurry

397 James St. Vincent Lord de Saumarez

398 Thomas Lord Denman

399 Shelley Leopold Laurence Lord Abinger

400 Philip Lord De L'Isle and Dudley

401 Francis Denzil Edward Lord Ashburton

402 Edward George Percy Lord Hatherton

403 Archibald Brabazon Sparrow Lord Worlingham. (*Earl of Gosford*)

404 Hallyburton George Lord Stratheden

405 Geoffrey Henry Browne Lord Oranmore and Browne. (*Elected for Ireland*)

406 Simon Joseph Lord Lovat

407 William Spencer Lord Bateman

408 Algernon Hawkins Thomond Lord Kintore. (*Earl of Kintore*)

409 Derrick Warner William Lord Rossmore

410 Robert Shapland George Julian Lord Carew

411 William Ashley Webb Lord De Mauley

412 Arthur Lord Wrottesley

413 Charles Douglas Richard Lord Sudeley

414 Paul Sanford Lord Methuen

415 Edward Lyulph Lord Stanley of Alderley

416 Francis Dudley Lord Leigh

417 Beilby Lord Wenlock

418 William Lord Lurgan

419 Thomas Spring Lord Monteagle of Brandon

420 John Reginald Upton Lord Seaton

421 John Hew North Gustave Henry Lord Oxenfoord. (*Earl of Stair*)

422 George Crespigny Brabazon Lord Vivian

423 Henry Bligh Fortescue Lord Congleton

424 Charles Bertram Lord Bellew. (*Elected for Ireland*)

425 Victor Alexander Lord Elgin. (*Earl of Elgin and Kincardine*)

426 Arthur Lord de Freyne

427 Edward Burtenshaw Lord Saint Leonards

428 George Fitz-Roy Henry Lord Raglan

429 Valentine Charles Lord Kenmare. (*Earl of Kenmare*)

430 Henry Lord Belper

431 Richard Wogan Lord Talbot de Malahide

432 Robert Wellesley Lord Ebury

433 Charles Compton William Lord Chesham

434 Frederic John Napier Lord Chelmsford

435 John Lord Churston

436 Charles Henry Lord Leconfield

437 Courtenay Robert Percy Lord Lyveden

438 Henry Charles Lord Brougham and Vaux

439 Arthur Fitz-Gerald Lord Kinnaird

440 Richard Luttrell Pilkington Lord Westbury

441 Charles Paget Fitzhardinge Lord Fitzhardinge

442 Luke Lord Annaly

443 William Gaspard Guy Lord Romilly

444 James Herbert Gustavus Meredyth Lord Meredyth. (*Lord Athlumney*)

445 Windham Thomas Lord Kenry. (*Earl of Dunraven and Mount-Earl*)

446 Henry Power Charles Stanley Lord Monck. (*Viscount Monck*)

447 Charles Henry Chandos Lord Hartismere. (*Lord Henniker*)

448 Hylton George Hylton Lord Hylton
449 George Sholto Gordon Lord Penrhyn
450 Gustavus Russell Lord Brancepeth. (*Viscount Boyne*)
451 John Henry Lord Kesteven
452 Arthur Lord Ormathwaite
453 Edward Lord O'Neill
454 Robert William Lord Napier
455 Jenico William Joseph Lord Gormanston. (*Viscount Gormanston*)
456 Thomas Kane Lord Rathdonnell. (*Elected for Ireland*)
457 John Hamilton Lord Lawrence
458 John Lord Dunning. (*Lord Rollo*)
459 Charles Noel Lord Balinhard. (*Earl of Southesk*)
460 William Lord Hare. (*Earl of Listowel*)
461 Francis Edward Lord Howard of Glossop
462 Bernard Edward Barnaby Lord Castletown
463 Richard Maximilian Lord Acton
464 Frederick Lord Wolverton
465 Algernon William Fulke Lord Greville
466 Maurice Herbert Ignatius Towneley Lord O'Hagan
467 William Lord Sandhurst
468 William John George Lord Ettrick. (*Lord Napier*)
469 Sidney James Lord Somerton. (*Earl of Normanton*)
470 Henry Campbell Lord Aberdare
471 Henry James Lord Moncreiff
472 Bernard John Seymour Lord Coleridge
473 Thomas William Gaston Lord Emly
474 Thomas Francis Lord Cottesloe
475 Herbert Stuart Lord Hampton
476 Charles Alexander Lord Douglas (*Earl of Home*)
477 Arthur George Maule Lord Ramsay (*Earl of Dalhousie*)
478 John Henry Lord Fermanagh. (*Earl Erne*)
479 George Ralph Charles Lord Harlech
480 Humphrey Napier Lord Alington
481 Bentley Lyonel John Lord Tollemache
482 Frederic John Lord Gerard
483 Lionel Sackville Lord Sackville
484 Charles Leigh Lord Norton
485 Walter Bulkeley Lord Shute. (*Viscount Barrington*)
486 Lawrence William Lord Haldon
487 Ivor Bertie Lord Wimborne
488 Arthur Edward Lord Ardilaun
489 Charles Wallace Alexander Napier Lord Lamington
490 Arthur William Lord Trevor
491 Edward Lord Brabourne
492 Arthur Oliver Villiers Lord Ampthill
493 William Montagu Lord Tweeddale. (*Marquess of Tweeddale*)
494 William Ulick Tristram Lord Howth. (*Earl of Howth*)
495 Donald James Lord Reay
496 Harcourt Lord Derwent
497 Henry James Lord Hothfield
498 Edward Lord Tweedmouth
499 Hallam Lord Tennyson
500 James Lord Strathspey. (*Earl of Seafield*)
501 John William Lord Monk Bretton
502 Walter Henry Lord Northbourne
503 Arthur Jocelyn Charles Lord Sudley. (*Earl of Arran*)
504 Marmaduke Francis Lord Herries
505 Mervyn Richard Lord Powerscourt
506 Frederic Lord Northington. (*Lord Henley*)
507 Nathaniel Mayer Lord Rothschild
508 John Lord Revelstoke
509 Robert Lord Monkswell
510 Edward Lord Ashbourne
511 Rowland Lord Saint Oswald
512 Robert Wilfrid Lord Deramore
513 John Walter Edward Lord Montagu of Beaulieu
514 Sidney Herbert Lord Elphinstone
515 Richard Farrer Lord Herschell
516 Charles William Lord Hillingdon
517 Charles Lord Hindlip
518 Ernest William Lord Grimthorpe
519 Richard de Aquila Lord Stalbridge
520 Hugh Lord Kensington

521 Michael Arthur Lord Burton

522 Gavin George Lord Hamilton of Dalzell

523 Thomas Lord Brassey

524 Edward Lord Macnaghten. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary*)

525 Claude George Lord Bowes. (*Earl of Strathmore and Kinghorn*)

526 George Edmund Milnes Lord Monckton. (*Viscount Galway*)

527 John Lord Saint Levan

528 Dudley Stuart Lord Magheramorne

529 George Limbrey Lord Basing

530 William Henry Lord de Ramsey

531 Herbert Francis Lord Cheylesmore

532 Egerton Lord Addington

533 John Savile Lord Savile

534 George Lord Mount Stephen

535 Samuel Lord Masham

536 William Lord Kelvin

537 George Lord Ashcombe

538 Archibald Campbell Lord Blythswood

539 Thomas Lord Crawshaw

540 William Amhurst Lord Amherst of Hackney

541 Thomas Wodehouse Lord Newton

542 Henry Lyle Lord Dunleath

543 John Allan Lord Llangattock

544 George James Lord Playfair

545 Cyril Lord Battersea

546 Ernest Ambrose Lord Swansea

547 Thomas Cecil Lord Farrer

548 John Campbell Lord Overtoun

549 Arthur Lord Stanmore

550 Stuart Lord Rendel

551 Reginald Earle Lord Welby

552 Horace Lord Davey. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary*)

553 Edward Douglas Lord Loch

554 Sydney James Lord Wandsworth

555 James Lord Ashton

556 Herbert Coulstoun Lord Burghclere

557 Henry Lord James

558 David Robert Lord Rathmore

559 Algernon Lord Glenesk

560 Henry Hucks Lord Aldenham

561 Edward Lord Heneage

562 Hercules Arthur Temple Lord Rosmead

563 Alexander Smith Lord Kinnear

564 Joseph Lord Lister

565 David Lord Fairlie. (*Earl of Glasgow*)

566 Hugh Richard Lord Dawnay. (*Viscount Downe*)

567 Henry Ludlow Lord Ludlow

568 Hans Wellesley Lord Holm Patrick

569 James Cleland Lord Inverclyde

570 Donald Alexander Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal

571 James Henry Cecil Lord Newlands

572 Horace Brand Lord Farquhar

573 Josslyn Francis Lord Muncaster

574 Arthur Lawrence Lord Haliburton

575 Joseph Henry Russell Lord Glanusk

576 Henry Lord Brampton

577 Bertram Francis Lord Cranworth

578 James Patrick Bannerman Lord Robertson. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary*)

579 Henry Stafford Lord Northcote

580 John Lord Avebury

581 Nathaniel Lord Lindley.

582 Martin Henry Lord Killanin.

583 Peter Lord O'Brien

584 Richard Everard Lord Alverstone

585 Patrick Lord Kinross

586 Ughtred James Lord Shuttleworth

587 William Lawies Lord Allerton

588 Arthur Hugh Lord Barrymore

589 Francis Wallace Lord Grenfell

590 Francis Lord Knollys

591 Algernon Bertram Lord Redesdale

592 Edward Levy Lord Burnham.

593 Michael Lord Biddulph.

594 George Thomas John Lord Estcourt

595 William Henry Armstrong Fitz-Patrick Lord Armstrong.

596 Andrew Graham Lord Dunedin

597 Alexander John Lord Leith of Fyvie

598 John Lord Atkinson. (*A Lord of Appeal in Ordinary*)

599 Charles Lord Ritchie of Dundee
600 Thomas Henry Lord Sanderson
601 William Hood Lord Waleran
602 Henry Meysey Lord Knaresborough
603 Alfred Charles William Lord Northcliffe
604 Herbert Lord Michelham
605 Edmund Beckett Lord Faber
606 William Henry Lord Desborough
607 Robert Threshie Lord Loreburn. (*In another place as Lord High Chancellor*)
608 Edmond George Petty Lord Fitzmaurice
609 Philip James Lord Weardale
610 Arthur Divett Lord Haversham
611 Charles Hare Lord Hemphill
612 James Lord Joicey
613 Charles Henry Lord Nunburnholme
614 William Henry Lord Winterstoke
615 Edward Arthur Lord Colebrooke
616 Leonard Henry Lord Courtney of Penwith
617 George John Lord Eversley
618 William James Lord Pirrie
619 John Jones Lord Glantawe
620 George Lord Armitstead
621* Wentworth Blackett Lord Allendale

---

* This number is in excess of the total Number of Lords Spiritual and Temporal, the Discrepancy being caused by the following Lords being twice named in the Roll:

Lord Loreburn as Lord High Chancellor and as Lord Loreburn (Nos. 5 and 607).

Earl of Crewe as Lord President and as Earl of Crewe (Nos. 7 and 192).

Marquess of Ripon as Lord Privy Seal and as Marquess of Ripon (Nos. 8 and 48).

Earl of Liverpool as Lord Steward and as Earl of Liverpool (Nos. 54 and 198)

Viscount Althorp as Lord Chamberlain and as Viscount Althorp (Nos. 199 and 240)

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH PARLIAMENT OF
THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND
AND THE SECOND OF KING EDWARD VII.

(Compiled at the Opening of the Session.)

A

Abraham, William (Glamorgan, Rhondda)
Abraham, William (Cork Co., N.E.)
Acland, F. D. (Yorkshire, Richmond)
Acland-Hood, Rt. Hon. Sir A., Bt. (Somerset, Wellington)
Adkins, W. R. (Lancashire S.E., Middleton)
Agnew, George William (Salford, W.)
Ainsworth, John S. (Argyll)
Alden, P. (Middlesex, Tottenham)
Allen, A. A. (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Gloucester, Stroud)
Ambrose, Dr. Robert (Mayo, W.)
Anson, Sir William R., Bt. (Oxford University)
Anstruther-Gray, Major (St. Andrews Burghs)
Arkwright, John S. (Hereford)
Armitage, R. (Leeds, Central)
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hon. H. O. (Croydon)
Ashley, W.W. (Lancashire, N. (Blackpool)
Ashton, Thomas Gair (Beds., Luton)
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H. (Fife,) E.
Astbury, J. M. K.C. (Lancashire, Southport)
Atherley-Jones, Llewellyn (Durham, N.W.)
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H., Bt., (Sussex, Lewes)

B

Baker, J. Allen (Finsbury, E.)
Baker, Sir J. (Portsmouth)
Balcarres, Lord (Lancashire, N., Chorley)
Baldwin, Alfred (Worcester, Bewdley)
Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. (City of London)
Balfour, Captain Charles B. (Middlesex, Hornsey)
Balfour, R. (Lanark, Partick)
Banbury, Sir F. G. (City of London)
Baring, G. (Isle of Wight)
Baring, Hon. G. V. (Winchester)
Barker, J. (Penryn and Falmouth)
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset, Frome)
Barlow, P. (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B. (Kidderminster)
Barnes, J. N. (Glasgow, Blackfriars)
Barran, Rowland H. (Leeds, N.)
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Barry, Edward (Cork Co., S.)
Beach, Hon. M. Hicks (Gloucester, Tewkesbury)
Beale, W. P. (Ayrshire, S.)
Beauchamp, H. W. (Suffolk, Lowestoft)
Beaumont, H. (Sussex, Eastbourne)
Beck, A. C. (Cambridge, Wisbech)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase (York, N.R., Whitby)

Bell, Richard (Derby)
Bellairs, C. (Lynn Regis)
Belloc, Hilaire V. P. R. (Salford, S.)
Benn, Sir John (Devonport)
Benn, W. W. (Tower Hamlets, St. George)
Bennett, E. N. (Oxfordshire, Woodstock)
Berridge, T. H. D. (Warwick and Leamington)
Bertram, J. (Herts, Hitchin)
Bethell, E. H. (Essex, Maldon)
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romford)
Bignold, Sir Arthur (Wick Burghs)
Billson, A. (Staffordshire, N.W.)
Birrell, Rt. Hon. A. (Bristol, N.)
Black, A. W. (Beds, Biggleswade)
Blake, Hon. Edward (Longford, S.)
Boland, John P. (Kerry, South)
Bottomley, H. W. (Hackney, S.)
Boulton, A. C. F. (Hunts, Ramsey)
Bowerman, C. W. (Deptford)
Bowles, G. Stewart (Lambeth, Norwood)
Boyle, Sir E. Bt. (Taunton)
Brace, W. (Glamorgan, S.)
Bramsdon, T. A. (Portsmouth)
Branch, J. (Middlesex, Enfield)
Bridgeman, W. C. (Shropshire, Oswestry)
Brigg, John (Yorks, W.R., Keighley)
Bright, J. A. (Oldham)
Brocklehurst, C. B. (Cheshire, Macclesfield)
Brodie, H. C. (Surrey, Reigate)
Brooke, G. S. (Tower Hamlets, Bow and Bromley)
Brotherton, E. A. (Wakefield)
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancashire, S.W. Leigh)
Brunner, Sir John T., Bt. (Cheshire, Northwich)
Bryce, J. A. (Inverness Burghs)
Buchanan, Thomas R. (Perthshire, E.)
Buckmaster, S. O. (Cambridge)
Bull, Sir William James (Hammersmith)
Burdett-Coutts, W. L. A. B. (Westminster)
Burke, E. Haviland (King's County, Tullamore)
Burns, Rt. Hon. John (Battersea)
Burnyeat, W. J. D. (Whitehaven)
Burt, Rt. Hon. Thomas (Morpeth)
Butcher, S. H. (Cambridge University)
Buxton, Rt. Hon. Sydney C. (Tower Hamlets, Poplar)
Byles, William Pollard (Salford, N.)

C

Cairns, T. (Newcastle-on-Tyne)
Caldwell, James (Lanark, Mid.)
Cameron, Robert (Durham, Houghton-le-Spring)
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M. (Dublin University)
Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H. G.C.B. (Stirling Burghs)
Carlile, E. H. (Herts, St. Albans)
Carr-Comm, H. W. (Southwark, Rotherhithe)
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir E. H. (Dublin University)
Castlereagh, Lord (Maidstone)
Causton, Rt. Hon. Richard Knight (Southwark, W.)
Cave, G. (Surrey, Kingston)
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. V. C. W. (Derbyshire, W.)
Cawley, Sir Frederick (Lancs., Prestwich)
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord J. P. Jiocey (Lincolnshire, Stamford)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. (Birmingham, W.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. Austen (Worcestershire, E.)
Chance, F. W. (Carlisle)
Channing, Sir Francis (Northants, E.)
Cheetham, J. F. (Stalybridge)
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R. (Liverpool, Exchange)
Churchill, Winston L. S. (Manchester, N.W.)
Clancy, John J. (Dublin Co., N.)
Clark, C. G. (Camberwell, Peckham)
Cleland, J. W. (Glasgow, Bridgeton)
Clough, W. (Yorks, W.R., Skipton)
Clynes, J. R. (Manchester, N.E.)
Coates, Major E. F. (Lewisham)
Coates, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley (Ipswich)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. (Ayrshire, N.)

Cogan, Denis J. (Wicklow, E.)

Collings, Rt. Hon. Jesse (Birmingham, Bordesley)

Collins, S. (Lambeth, Kennington)

Collins, Sir W. J. (St. Pancras, W.)

Condon, Thomas J. (Tipperary, E.)

Cooper, Dr. G. (Southwark, Bermondsey)

Corbett, Arch. Cameron (Glasgow, Tradeston)

Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, East Grinstead)

Corbett, T. L. (Down, N.)

Cornwall, Sir E. A. (Bethnal Green, N.E.)

Cory, C. J. (Cornwall, St. Ives)

Cotton, Sir H. J. S. (Nottingham, E.)

Courthope, G. L. (Sussex, Rye)

Cowan, W. H. (Surrey, Guildford)

Cox, Harold (Preston)

Craig, Charles C. (Antrim S.)

Craig, H. J. (Tynemouth)

Craig, Capt. J. (Down, E.)

Craik, Sir H. (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities)

Crean, Eugene (Cork, S.E.)

Cremer, William R. (Shoreditch, Haggerston)

Crombie, John William (Kincardineshire)

Crooks, W. (Woolwich)

Crosfield, A. H. (Warrington)

Cross, Alexander (Glasgow, Camlachie)

Crossley, W. J. (Cheshire, Altrincham)

Cullinan, J. (Tipperary, S.)

D

Dalmeny, Lord (Edinburgh, Midlothan)

Dalrymple, Lord (Wigton)

Dalziel, James H. (Kirkcaldy Burghs)

Davies, David (Montgomeryshire)

Davies, Ellis (Carnarvonshire, Eifion)

Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)

Davies, Timothy (Fulham)

Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)

Delany, William (Queen's Co., Ossory)

Devlin, Joseph (Belfast, W., and Kilkenny, N.)

Dewar, A. (Edinburgh, S.)

Dewar, John A. (Inverness)

Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.)

Dickson-Poynder, Sir J., Bt. (Wilts, Chippenham)

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir C. W., Bt. (Gloucester, Forest of Dean)

Dillon, John (Mayo, E.)

Dixon, Rt. Hon. Sir D., Bt. (Belfast, N.)

Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. D., Bt. (Middlesex, Uxbridge)

Dobson, T. W. (Plymouth)

Dolan, C. J. (Leitrim, N.)

Donelan, Capt. A. J. C. (Cork, E.)

Doughty, Sir George (Great Grimsby)

Douglas, Rt. Hon. Aretas Akers (Kent, St. Augustine's)

Duckworth, J. (Stockport)

Du Cros, Harvey (Hastings)

Duffy, William J. (Galway, S.)

Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)

Duncan, J. Hastings (Yorks, W.R., Otley)

Duncan, R. (Lanark, Govan)

Dunn, A. E. (Cornwall, Camborne)

Dunne, Major E. M. (Walsall)

E

Edwards, A. C. (Denbigh District)

Edwards, E. (Hanley)

Edwards, Frank (Radnor)

Elibank, Master of (Peebles and Selkirk)

Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward (Nottingham, Rushcliffe)

Emmott, Alfred (Oldham)

Erskine, D. C. (Perthshire, W.)

Esmonde, Sir T. Grattan, Bt. (Wexford, N.)

Essex, R. W. (Gloucestershire, Cirencester)

Evans, Samuel Thomas (Glamorgan, Mid.)

Evans-Gordon, Major Sir W. (Tower Hamlets, Stepney)

Eve, H. Trelawney (Devon, Ashburton)

Everett, R. L. (Suffolk, Woodbridge)

F

Faber, G. Denison (York)

Faber, G. H. (Boston)

Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, Andover)

Fardell, Sir T. George (Paddington, S.)

Farrell, James P. (Longford, N.)

Fell, A. (Great Yarmouth)

Fenwick, Charles (Northumberland, Wansbeck)
Ferens, T. R. (Hull E.)
Ferguson, Ronald C. Munro (Leith Burghs)
Fetherstonhaugh, G. (Fermanagh, N.)
Ffrench, Peter (Wexford, S.)
Field, William (Dublin, St. Patrick)
Fiennes, Hon. E. E. (Oxfordshire, Banbury)
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H. (Rutland)
Findlay, Alexander (Lanark, N.E.)
Flavin, Michael Joseph (Kerry, N.)
Fletcher, J. S. (Hampstead)
Flynn, James C. (Cork, N.)
Forster, Henry Wm. (Kent, Sevenoaks)
Foster, Sir B. Walter (Derby, Ilkeston)
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir H. H. (Wolverhampton, E.)
Freeman-Thomas, F. (Cornwall, Bodmin)
Fuller, John Michael F. (Wilts, Westbury)
Fullerton, H. (Cumberland, Egremont)
Furness, Sir Christopher (Hartlepool)

G

Gardner, Col. A. (Herefordshire, Ross)
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, Wokingham)
Gibb, J. (Middlesex, Harrow)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, W.)
Gilhooly, James (Cork Co., W.)
Gill, A. H. (Bolton)
Ginnell, L. (Westmeath, N.)
Gladstone, Rt. Hon. Herbert J. (Leeds, W.)
Glendinning, R. (Antrim, N.)
Glover, T. (St. Helens)
Goddard, Daniel Ford (Ipswich)
Gooch, G. P. (Bath)
Gordon, John (Londonderry, S.)
Grant, Corrie, (Warwickshire, Rugby)
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, H. (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward, Bt. (Northumberland, Berwick)
Griffith, Ellis J. (Anglesey)
Grove, T. N. A. (Northants, S.)
Guest, Hon. Ivor C. (Cardiff District)
Gulland, J. W. (Dumfries Burghs)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton (Norfolk, N.)
Gwynn, S. L. (Galway)

H

Haddock, G. B. (Lancashire, North Lonsdale)
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B. (Haddington)
Hall, F. (Yorks, W.R., Normanton)
Halpin, J. (Clare, W.)
Hambro, C. Eric (Surrey, Wimbledon)
Hamilton, Marquess of (Londonderry)
Hammond, John (Carlow)
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis (Lancashire, N.E., Rossendale)
Hardie, James Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, G. A. (Suffolk, Stowmarket)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford)
Harmood-Banner, J. S. (Liverpool, Everton)
Harmsworth, C. B. (Worcester, Droitwich)
Harmsworth, R. Leicester (Caithness)
Harrington, Timothy (Dublin, Harbour)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B. (Yorks, E.R., Howdenshire)
Hart-Davies, T. (Hackney, N.)
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Harwood, George (Bolton)
Haslam, J. (Derbyshire, Chesterfield)
Haslam, L. (Monmouth Boroughs)
Haworth, Arthur A. (Manchester, S.)
Hay, Hon. Claude G. D. (Shoreditch, Hoxton)
Hayden, John P. (Roscommon, S.)
Hazel, Dr. A. E. W. (West Bromwich)
Hazleton, R. (Galway, N.)
Healy, Timothy M. (Louth, N.)
Heaton-Armstrong, W. C. (Suffolk, Sudbury)
Heaton, J. Henniker (Canterbury)
Hedges, A. P. (Kent, Tonbridge)
Helme, Norval W. (Lancashire, N., Lancaster)

Helmsley, Lord (Yorks, N.R., Thirsk)
Hemmerde, E. G. (Denbighshire, E.)
Henderson, Arthur (Durham, Barnard Castle)
Henderson, J. McD. (Aberdeenshire, W.)
Henry, C. S. (Shropshire, Wellington)
Herbert, Col. I. (Monmouthshire, S.)
Herbert, T. A. (Bucks, Wycombe)
Hervey, Capt. F. W. F. (Bury St. Edmunds)
Higham, John Sharp (Yorks, W.R., Sowerby)
Hill, Sir C. L. (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W. (Durham)
Hobart, Sir Robert (Hants, New Forest)
Hobhouse, Charles E. H. (Bristol, E.)
Hodge, J. (Lancashire, S.E., Gorton)
Hogan, M. (Tipperary, N.)
Holden, E. H. (Lancashire, Heywood)
Holland, Sir William H. (Yorks, W.R., Rotherham)
Hooper, A. G. (Dudley)
Hope, J. D. (Fife, W.)
Hope, W. H. B. (Somerset, N.)
Hornby, Sir Wm. Henry, Bt. (Blackburn)
Horniman, E. J. (Chelsea)
Horridge, Thomas G. (Manchester, E.)
Houston, Robert P. (Liverpool, W. Toxteth)
Howard, Hon. G. (Cumberland, Eskdale)
Hudson, W. (Newcastle-on-Tyne)
Hunt, Rowland (Shropshire, Ludlow)
Hutton, Alfred E. (Yorks, W.R., Morley)
Hyde, C. G. (Wednesbury)

I

Idris, T. H. (Flint Boroughs)
Illingworth, P. (Yorks, W.R., Shipley)
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel (Reading)

J

Jackson, R. S. (Greenwich)
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred (Derbyshire, Mid)
Jardine, Sir J. (Roxburghshire)
Jenkins, J. (Chatham)
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Warwickshire, Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea District)
Jones, Leif (Westmoreland, Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvon, Arfon)
Jordan, Jeremiah (Fermanagh, S.)
Jowett, F. W. (Bradford, W.)
Joyce, M. (Limerick)

K

Kearley, Hudson E. (Devonport)
Kekewich, Sir G. W. (Exeter)
Kelley, G. D. (Manchester, S.W.)
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H., Bt., C.B (Devon, Honiton)
Kennedy, Vincent P. (Cavan, W.)
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. Wm. (Shropshire, Newport)
Keswick, William (Surrey, Epsom)
Kettle, T. M. (Tyrone, E.)
Kilbride, Dennis (Kildare, S.)
Kimber, Sir Henry, Bt. (Wandsworth)
Kincaid-Smith, Capt. (Warwickshire, Stratford-on-Avon)
King, A. J. (Cheshire, Knutsford)
King, Sir H. Seymour (Hull, Central)
Kitson, Sir James, Bt. (Yorks, W.R. Colne Valley)

L

Laidlaw, R. (Renfrew, E.)
Lamb, E. (Hereford, Leominster)
Lamb, E. H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George (Devon, South Molton)
Lambton, Hon. F. W. (Durham, S.E.)
Lamont, Norman (Buteshire)
Lane-Fox, G. (Yorks, W.R., Barkston Ash)
Langley, J. Batty (Sheffield, Attercliffe)
Law, A. Bonar (Camberwell, Dulwich)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Layland-Barratt, F. (Devon, Torquay)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants, Fareham)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Lancashire, N.E., Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C. (Leicester, Market Harborough)

Lever, A. L. (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice (Leicestershire, Loughborough)
Lewis, John Herbert (Flintshire)
Liddell, H. (Down, W.)
Lloyd George, Rt. Hon. David (Carnarvon, &c.)
Lockwood, Rt. Hon. Lt.-Col. Amelius (Essex, Epping)
Long, Col. Charles W. (Worcestershire, Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hon. Walter H. (Dublin, S.)
Lonsdale, John B. (Armagh, Mid)
Lough, Thomas (Islington, W.)
Lowe, Sir Francis W. (Birmingham, Edgbaston)
Lowther, Rt. Hon. James William (Cumberland, Penrith)
Lundon, W. (Limerick, E.)
Lupton, A. (Lincolnshire, Sleaford)
Luttrell, H. F. (Devon, Tavistock)
Lyell, C. H. (Dorset, E.)
Lynch, H. F. B. (Yorks, W.R., Ripon)
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. A. (St. George's, Hanover Square)

M

Macdonald, J. A. M. (Falkirk Burghs)
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacIver, David (Liverpool, Kirkdale)
Mackarness, F. C. (Berks, Newbury)
Maclean, D. (Bath)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J. (Camberwell, North)
MacNeill, J. G. Swift (Donegal, S.)
Macpherson, J. T. (Preston)
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, C. (Donegal, E.)
McArthur, William A. (Cornwall, St Austell)
McCallum, J. (Paisley)
McCalmont, Colonel James (Antrim, E.)
McCrae, George (Edinburgh, E.)
McHugh, Patrick A. (Sligo, N., and Leitrim, N.)
McIver, Sir Lewis, Bt. (Edinburgh, W.)
M'Kean, J. (Monaghan, S.)
McKenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald (Monmouth, N.)
M'Killop, W. (Armagh, S.)
McLaren, Sir C. B. Bright, Bt., (Leicester, Bosworth)
McLaren, H. D. (Staffordshire, W.)
McMicking, Major G. (Kirkcudbrightshire)
Maddison, F. (Burnley)
Magnus, Sir P. (London University)
Mallet, C. E. (Plymouth)
Manfield, H. (Northants, Mid.)
Mansfield, H. R. (Lincoln, Spalding)
Markham, A. B. (Notts., Mansfield)
Marks, G. C. (Cornwall, Launceston)
Marks, H. H. (Kent, Thanet)
Marnham, F. J. (Surrey, Chertsey)
Mason, A. E. W. (Coventry)
Mason, J. F. (Windsor)
Massie, Dr. J. (Wilts, Cricklade)
Masterman, C. F. G. (West Ham, N.)
Meagher, M. (Kilkenny, N.)
Meehan, P. A. (Queen's County, Leix)
Menzies, W. (Lanark, S.)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C. (Stafford, Handsworth)
Micklem, N., K.C., (Herts, Watford)
Middlemore, John T. (Birmingham, N.)
Mildmay, Francis B. (Devon, Totnes)
Mitchell-Thomson, W. (Lanark, N.W.)
Molteno P. A. (Dumfriesshire)
Mond, A. (Chester)
Money, L. G. Chiozza (Paddington, N.)
Montagu, E. S. (Cambs., Chesterton)
Montgomery, H. G. (Somerset, Bridgwater)
Mooney, John J. (Newry)
Moore, W. (Armagh, N.)
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall, Truro)
Morgan, John Lloyd (Carmarthen, W.)
Morley, Rt. Hon John (Montrose, &c.)
Morpeth, Lord (Birmingham, S.)
Morrell, P. (Oxon, Henley)
Morse, L. L. (Wilts, Wilton)
Morton, A. C. (Sutherland)
Muntz, Sir Philip Albert, Bt. (Warwickshire, Tamworth)

Murnaghan, George (Tyrone, Mid.)
Murphy, John (Kerry, E.)
Myer, Horatio (Lambeth, N.)

N

Nannetti, Joseph P. (Dublin, College Green)
Napier, T. B. (Kent, Faversham)
Newnes, F. (Notts., Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George, Bt. (Swansea Town)
Nicholls, G. (Northants, N.)
Nicholson, C. N. (Yorks, W.R., Doncaster)
Nicholson, William G. (Hants., Petersfield)
Nield, H. (Middlesex, Ealing)
Nolan, Joseph (Louth, S.)
Norman, Sir Henry (Wolverhampton, S.)
Norton, Capt. Cecil W. (Newington, W.)
Nussey, Thomas Willans (Pontefract)
Nuttall, H. (Lancashire, S.E., Stretford)

O

O'Brien, K. E. (Tipperary, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Brien, William (Cork)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, Thomas P. (Liverpool, Scotland)
O'Doherty, P. (Donegal, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Newington, Walworth)
O'Donnell, John (Mayo, S.)
O'Donnell, Thomas (Kerry, W.)
O'Dowd, John (Sligo, S.)
O'Grady, J. (Leeds, E.)
O'Hare, P. (Monaghan, N.)
O'Kelly, Conor (Mayo, N.)
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William (Galway, Connemara)
O'Mara, James (Kilkenny, S.)
O'Neill, Hon. R. Torrens (Antrim, Mid)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J. (Limerick, W.)
O'Shee, James John (Waterford, W.)

P

Palmer, Sir Charles M., Bt. (Durham, Jarrow)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parker, J. (Halifax)
Parkes, Ebenezer (Birmingham, Central)
Partington, Oswald (Derbyshire, High Peak)
Paul, H. W. (Northampton)
Paulton, James M. (Durham, Bishop Auckland)
Pearce, R. (Staffordshire, Leek)
Pearce, W. (Tower Hamlets, Limehouse)
Pearson, Sir Weetman D., Bt. (Colchester)
Pearson, W. H. M. (Suffolk, Eye)
Pease, H. Pike (Darlington)
Pease, Joseph A. (Essex, Saffron Walden)
Percy, Lord (Kensington, S.)
Perks, Robert W. (Lincolnshire, Louth)
Philipps, Lt.-Col. Ivor (Southampton)
Philipps, John W. (Pembroke)
Philipps, O. C. (Pembroke and Haverfordwest)
Pickersgill, E. H. (Bethnal Green, S.W.)
Pirie, Duncan Vernon (Aberdeen, North)
Pollard, Dr. G. H. (Lancashire, S.E., Eccles)
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp, Bt. (Wigan)
Power, Patrick J. (Waterford, E.)
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, East)
Priestley, Arthur (Grantham)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert (Perth)

R

Radford, G. H. (Islington, E.)
Rainy, A. R. (Kilmarnock Burghs)
Randles, Sir J. S. (Cumberland, Cockermouth)
Raphael, H. H. (Derbyshire, S.)
Rasch, Major Sir Fred. C., Bt. (Essex, Chelmsford)
Ratcliff, R. F. (Staffordshire, Burton)
Rawlinson, J. F. P. (Cambridge University)
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, W. R. (Scarborough)
Reddy, M. (King's County, Birr)
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William H. K. (Clare, E.)
Rees, J. D. (Montgomery Boroughs)
Remnant, James F. (Finsbury, Holborn)
Rendall, A. (Gloucester, Thornbury)

Renton, Major L. (Lincolnshire, Gainsborough)

Richards, Tom (Monmouthshire, W.)

Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampton, W.)

Richardson, A. (Nottingham, S.)

Rickett, J. Compton (Yorks W.R., Osgoldcross)

Ridsdale, E. A. (Brighton)

Roberts, C. H. (Lincoln)

Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)

Roberts, John Herbert (Denbighshire, W.)

Roberts, Samuel (Sheffield, Ecclesall)

Robertson, Rt. Hn. Edmund (Dundee)

Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradford, Central)

Robertson, J. M. (Northumberland, Tyneside)

Robinson, S. (Brecknock)

Robson, Sir Wm. Snowdon (South Shields)

Roche, Augustine (Cork)

Roche, John (Galway, E.)

Roe, Sir Thomas (Derby)

Rogers, F. N. (Wilts, Devizes)

Ropner, Colonel Sir E. H. O. R., Bt. (Stockton)

Rose, Charles D. (Cambridge, Newmarket)

Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W. (Bucks, Aylesbury)

Rowlands, J. (Kent, Dartford)

Runciman, Walter (Dewsbury)

Russell, Thomas W. (Tyrone, S.)

Rutherford, John (Lancashire, N.E., Darwen)

Rutherford, Dr. V. H. (Middlesex, Brentford)

Rutherford, William W. (Liverpool, W. Derby)

S

Salter, A. Clavell (Hampshire, Basingstoke)

Samuel, Herbert Louis (Yorkshire, Cleveland)

Samuel, Stuart M. (Tower Hamlets, Whitechapel)

Sandys, Col. Thomas M. (Lancashire, Bootle)

Sassoon, Sir Edward A., Bt. (Hythe)

Scarisbrick, T. L. (Dorset, S.)

Schwann, C. D. (Cheshire, Hyde)

Schwann, Charles E. (Manchester, N.)

Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne)

Scott, Sir Samuel E., Bt. (Marylebone, W.)

Sears, J. E. (Cheltenham)

Seaverns, J. H. (Lambeth, Brixton)

Seddon, J. R (Lancashire, S.W., Newton)

Seely, Col. J. E. B. (Liverpool, Abercromby)

Shackleton, David (Lancashire, N.E., Clitheroe)

Shaw, Charles Edward (Stafford)

Shaw, Rt. Hon. Thomas (Hawick Burghs)

Sheehan, Daniel D. (Cork Co., Mid)

Sheehy, David (Meath S.)

Sherwell, A. J. (Huddersfield)

Shipman, Dr. John G. (Northampton)

Silcock, T. B. (Somerset, Wells)

Simon, J. A. (Essex, Walthamstow)

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John (Forfarshire)

Sloan, Thomas H. (Belfast, S.)

Smeaton, D. M. (Stirlingshire)

Smith, Abel Henry (Herts, Hertford)

Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)

Smith, Hon. W. Fred D. (Strand, Westminster)

Smyth, T. (Leitrim, S.)

Snowden, P. (Blackburn)

Soames, Arthur W. (Norfolk, S.)

Soares, Ernest J. (Devon, Barnstaple)

Spicer, Sir A. (Hackney, Central)

Stanger, H. Y. (Kensington, N.)

Stanley, Hon. A. L. (Cheshire, Eddisbury)

Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Lancashire, S.W., Ormskirk)

Starkey, J. R. (Notts, Newark)

Staveley-Hill, H. (Staffordshire, Kingswinford)

Steadman, W. C. (Finsbury, Central)

Stewart, H. (Greenock)

Stewart-Smith, D., (Westmoreland, Kendal)

Stone, Sir John Benjamin (Birmingham, E.)

Strachey, Sir Edward, Bt. (Somerset, S.)

Straus, B. S. (Tower Hamlets, Mile End)

Strauss, A. E. (Berks, Abingdon)

Stuart, J. (Sunderland)

Sullivan, Donal (Westmeath, S).

Summerbell, T. (Sunderland)

Sutherland, J. E. (Elgin Burghs)

T

Talbot, Lord Edmund (Sussex, Chichester)

Talbot, Rt. Hon. John G. (Oxford University)

Taylor, Austin (Liverpool, E. Toxteth)

Taylor, J. W. (Durham, Chester-le-Street)

Taylor, Theodore C. (Lancashire, S.E., Radcliffe)

Tennant, Sir E. P. (Salisbury)

Tennant, Harold John (Berwickshire)

Thomas, Abel (Carmarthenshire, E.)

Thomas, Sir Alfred (Glamorgan, E.)

Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr Tydvil)

Thomasson, F. (Leicester)

Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.)

Thorne, Will (West Ham, S.)

Thornton, Percy M. (Clapham)

Tillett, Louis John (Norwich)

Tomkinson, James (Cheshire, Crewe)

Torrance, A. M. (Glasgow, Central)

Toulmin, George (Bury, Lancashire)

Trevelyan, Charles P. (Yorks, W.R., Elland)

Tuke, Sir John Batty (Edinburgh and St. Andrew's Universities)

Turnour, Lord (Sussex, Horsham)

U

Ure, Alexander (Linlithgow)

V

Valentia, Rt. Hon. Lord (Oxford)

Verney, F. W. (Bucks, N.)

Villiers, Ernest Amherst (Brighton)

Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard (Sheffield, Central)

Vivian, Henry (Birkenhead)

W

Wadsworth, J. (York, W.R., Hallamshire)

Waldron, L. A. (Dublin, St. Stephen's Green)

Walker, H. de R. (Leicestershire, Melton)

Walker, Col. William H. (Lancashire, S.W., Widnes)

Walrond, Hon. L. (Devon, Tiverton)

Walsh, S. (Lancashire, S.W., Ince)

Walters, J. T. (Sheffield, Brightside)

Walton, Sir John Lawson (Leeds, S.)

Walton, Joseph (Yorks, W.R., Barnsley)

Ward, J. (Stoke-on-Trent)

Ward, W. D. (Southampton)

Warde, Col. Charles E. (Kent, Medway)

Wardle, G. J. (Stockport)

Waring, W. (Banffshire)

Warner, T. Courtenay T. (Stafford, Lichfield)

Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan and Kinross)

Wason, J. Cathcart (Orkney & Shetland)

Waterlow, D. S. (Islington, N.)

Watt, H. A. (Glasgow, College)

Wedgwood, J. C. (Newcastle-under-Lyme)

Weir, James Galloway (Ross and Cromarty)

Whitbread, S. H. (Hunts, Huntingdon)

White, George (Norfolk, N.W.)

White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)

White, Luke (Yorks, E.R., Buckrose)

White, Patrick (Meath, N.)

Whitehead, R. (Essex, S.E.)

Whiteley, George (Yorks, W.R., Pudsey)

Whitley, John Henry (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas P. (Yorks, W.R., Spen Valley)
Wiles, Thomas (Islington, S.)
Wilkie, A. (Dundee)
Williams, A. Osmond (Merionethshire)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan, W.)
Williams, Colonel Robert (Dorset, W.)
Williams, W. L. (Carmarthen District)
Williamson, A. (Elgin and Nairn)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord (Lincolnshire, Horncastle)
Wills, A. W. (Dorset, N.)
Wilson, Arthur S. (Yorks, E.R., Holderness)
Wilson, Hon. Charles H. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, Henry Joseph (Yorks, W.R., Holmfirth)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, John (Durham, Mid)
Wilson, John William (Worcestershire, N.)
Wilson, P. Whitwell (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Lancashire, S.E., Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R. (Norfolk, S.W.)
Wodehouse, Lord (Norfolk, Mid.)
Wolff, Gustavus Wilhelm (Belfast, E.)
Wood, T. MacKinnon (Glasgow, St. Rollox)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. Charles B. Stuart, K.C. (Sheffield, Hallam)
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George (Dover)

Y

Young, Samuel (Cavan, E.)
Younger, G. (Ayr Burghs)
Yoxall, James Henry (Nottingham, W.)

HOUSE OF COMMONS

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CONSTITUENCIES,

WITH

NAMES OF MEMBERS.

(Compiled at the Opening of the Session.)

ENGLAND AND WALES (495 Members).

ANGLESEY	Ellis Jones Griffith.
ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE	Alfred H. Scott.
ASTON MANOR	Evelyn Cecil.
BARROW-IN-FURNESS	Charles Duncan.
BATH	Donald Maclean. George Peabody Gooch.
BATTERSEA AND CLAPHAM—	
Battersea	Rt. Hon. John Burns.
Clapham	Percy Melville Thornton.
BEDFORD—	
Northern or Biggleswade	A. W. Black.
Southern or Luton	Thomas Gair Ashton
BEDFORD	P. Barlow.
BERKS—	
Northern or Abingdon	E. A. Strauss.
Southern or Newbury	F. C. Mackarness.
Eastern or Wokingham	Ernest Gardner.
BETHNAL GREEN—	
North-East	Sir Edwin Andrew Cornwall.
South West	Edward Hare Pickersgill.
BIRKENHEAD	Henry Vivian.

Birmingham—	
Edgbaston	Sir Francis William Lowe.
West	Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain.
Central	Ebenezer Parkes.
North	John Throgmorton Middlemore.
East	Sir John Benjamin Stone.
Bordesley	Rt. Hon. Jesse Collings.
South	Viscount Morpeth.
Blackburn	Sir William Henry Hornby, Bt. Philip Snowden.
Bolton	George Harwood. A. H. Gill.
Boston	G. H. Faber.
Bradford—	
Central	Sir George Scott Robertson.
East	W. E. B. Priestley.
West	F. W. Jowett.
Brecknock	S. Robinson.
Brighton	Ernest Amhurst Villiers. Edward Aurelian Ridsdale.
Bristol—	
West	George Abraham Gibbs.
North	Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.
East	Charles Edward Henry Hobhouse.
South	W. Howell Davies.
Bucks—	
Northern or Buckingham	Frederick W. Verney.
Mid or Aylesbury	Hon. Lionel Walter Rothschild.
Southern or Wycombe	T. Arnold Herbert.
Burnley	Frederick Maddison.
Bury (Lanc.)	George Toulmin.
Bury St. Edmunds	Capt. Fredk. William Fane Hervey.
Camberwell—	
North	Dr. Thomas James Macnamara.
Peckham	C. Goddard Clark.
Dulwich	A. Bonar Law.
Cambridge—	
Northern or Wisbech	A. C. Beck.
Western or Chesterton	E. S. Montagu.
Eastern or Newmarket	Charles Day Rose.
Cambridge	Stanley Owen Buckmaster.
Cambridge University	Samuel Henry Butcher. J. F. P. Rawlinson.
Canterbury	J. Henniker Heaton.

CARDIFF	Hon. Ivor Guest.
CARDIGAN	Matthew L. Vaughan Davies.
CARLISLE	F. W. Chance.
CARMARTHEN—	
Eastern	Abel Thomas.
Western	John Lloyd Morgan.
CARMARTHEN, &c.	William Llewellyn Williams.
CARNARVON—	
Southern or Eifion	Ellis W. Davies.
Northern or Arfon	William Jones.
CARNARVON, &c.	Rt. Hon. David Lloyd-George.
CHATHAM	J. Jenkins.
CHELSEA	Emslie John Horniman.
CHELTENHAM	John Edward Sears.
CHESTER—	
Wirral	W. H. Lever.
Eddisbury	Hon. A. L. Stanley.
Macclesfield	C. B. Brocklehurst.
Crewe	James Tomkinson.
Northwich	Sir John Tomlinson Brunner, Bt.
Altrincham	W. J. Crossley.
Hyde	C. D. Schwann.
Knutsford	Alfred John King.
CHESTER	Alfred Mond.
CHRISTCHURCH	Arthur Acland Allen.
COLCHESTER	Sir Weetman D. Pearson, Bt.
CORNWALL—	
Western or St. Ives	Clifford John Cory.
North-Western or Camborne	A. E. Dunn.
Truro	G. H. Morgan.
Mid or St. Austell	William Alexander McArthur.
South-Eastern or Bodmin	F. Freeman Thomas.
North-Eastern or Launceston	G. Croydon Marks.
COVENTRY	Alfred Edward Woodley Mason.
CROYDON	Rt. Hon. H. O. Arnold-Forster.
CUMBERLAND—	
Northern or Eskdale	Hon. G. Howard.
Mid or Penrith	Rt. Hon. James William Lowther.
Cockermouth	Sir John S. Randles.
Western or Egremont	H. Fullerton.
DARLINGTON	Herbert Pike Pease.

DENBIGH—	
Eastern	E. G. Hemmerde.
Western	John Herbert Roberts
DENBIGH BOROUGHS	A. C. Edwards.
DEPTFORD	C. W. Bowerman.
DERBY—	
High Peak	Oswald Partington.
North Eastern	W. E. Harvey.
Chesterfield	J. Haslam.
Western	Rt. Hon. V. Cavendish.
Mid	Sir James Alfred Jacoby.
Ilkeston	Rt. Hon. Sir B. Walter Foster.
Southern	Herbert H. Raphael.
DERBY	Richard Bell. Sir Thomas Roe.
DEVON—	
Eastern or Honiton	Rt. Hon. Sir J. H. Kennaway, Bt.
North-Eastern or Tiverton	Hon. Lionel Walrond.
Northern or South Molton	George Lambert.
North-Western or Barnstaple	Ernest J. Soares.
Western or Tavistock	Hugh Fownes Luttrell.
Southern or Totnes	Francis Bingham Mildmay.
Torquay	Francis Layland-Barratt.
Mid or Ashburton	Harry Trelawney, Eve.
DEVONPORT	Hudson E. Kearley. Sir John Williams Benn.
DEWSBURY	Walter Runciman.
DORSET—	
Northern	A. W. Wills.
Eastern	Charles Henry Lyell.
Southern	T. L. Scarisbrick.
Western	Col. Robert Williams.
DOVER	Rt. Hon. George Wyndham.
DUDLEY	Arthur George Hooper.
DURHAM—	
Jarrow	Sir Charles Mark Palmer, Bt.
Houghton-le-Spring	Robert Cameron.
Chester-le-Street	John Wilkinson Taylor.
North-Western	Llewellyn A. Atherley Jones.
Mid	J. Wilson.
South-Eastern	Hon. Frederick Wm. Lambton.
Bishop Auckland	James Mellor Paulton.
Barnard Castle	Arthur Henderson.
DURHAM	John Walter Hills.

ESSEX—	
South-Western or Walthamstow	John Allsebrook Simon.
Southern or Romford	Sir J. H. Bethell.
Western or Epping	Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R. M. Lockwood.
Northern or Saffron Walden	Joseph Albert Pease.
North-Eastern or Harwich	A. Levy Lever.
Eastern or Maldon	E. H. Bethell.
Mid or Chelmsford	Major Sir Fred. Carne Rasch, Bt.
South-Eastern	Rowland Whitehead.
EXETER	Sir George Kekewich.
FINSBURY—	
Holborn	James Farquharson Remnant.
Central	William C. Steadman.
East	J. Allen Baker.
FLINT	John Herbert Lewis.
FLINT BOROUGHS	T. Howell Idris.
FULHAM	Timothy Davies.
GATESHEAD	John Johnson.
GLAMORGAN—	
Eastern	Sir Alfred Thomas.
Rhondda	William Abraham.
Western or Gower	J. Williams.
Mid	Samuel Thomas Evans.
Southern	William Brace.
GLOUCESTER—	
Mid or Stroud	Charles Peter Allen.
Northern or Tewkesbury	Hon. M. Hicks Beach.
Eastern or Cirencester	R. W. Essex.
Forest of Dean	Rt. Hn. Sir Chas. W. Dilke, Bt.
Southern or Thornbury	A. Rendall.
GLOUCESTER	Russell Rea.
GRANTHAM	Arthur Priestley.
GRAVESEND	Sir Gilbert Parker.
GREENWICH	Richard Stephen Jackson.
GT. GRIMSBY	Sir George Doughty.
GT. YARMOUTH	Arthur Fell.
HACKNEY—	
North	T. H. Davies.
Central	Sir Albert Spicer.
South	Horatio W. Bottomley.
HALIFAX	John Henry Whiteley. J. Parker.
HAMMERSMITH	Sir William James Bull.

HAMPSTEAD	J. S. Fletcher.
HANLEY	Enoch Edwards.
HANTS—	
Northern or Basingstoke	A. Clavell Salter.
Western or Andover	Capt. W. V. Faber.
Eastern or Petersfield	William Graham Nicholson.
Southern or Fareham	Arthur Hamilton Lee.
New Forest	Sir Robert Hobart.
HARTLEPOOL	Sir Christopher Furness.
HASTINGS	Harvey Du Cros.
HEREFORD—	
Northern or Leominster	Edmund Lamb.
Southern or Ross	Col. Alan Gardner.
HEREFORD	John Stanhope Arkwright.
HERTFORD—	
Northern or Hitchin	J. Bertram.
Eastern or Hertford	Abel Henry Smith.
Mid or St. Albans	E. H. Carlile.
Western or Watford	Nathaniel Micklem, K.C.
HUDDERSFIELD	A. J. Sherwell.
HUNTINGDON—	
Southern or Huntingdon	S. Howard Whitbread.
Northern or Ramsey	A. C. Forster Boulton.
HYTHE	Sir Edward A. Sassoon, Bt.
IPSWICH	Daniel Ford Goddard. Felix Thornley Cobbold.
ISLINGTON—	
North	D. S. Waterlow.
West	Thomas Lough.
East	G. H. Radford.
South	Thomas Wiles.
KENSINGTON—	
North	Henry York Stanger.
South	Earl Percy
KENT—	
Western or Sevenoaks	Henry William Forster.
North-Western or Dartford	James Rowlands.
South-Western or Tunbridge	A. P. Hedges.
Mid or Medway	Col. Charles Edw. Warde.
North-Eastern or Faversham	T. B. Napier.
Southern or Ashford	Laurence Hardy.
Eastern or St. Augustine's	Rt. Hon. Aretas Akers-Douglas.
Isle of Thanet	H. H. Marks.
KIDDERMINSTER	Edmund Broughton Barnard.

Kingston-on-Hull—	
East	Thomas R. Ferens.
Central	Sir Henry Seymour King, K.C.I.E.
West	Hon. Charles Henry Wilson.
Lambeth—	
North	Horatio Myer.
Kennington	Stephen Collings.
Brixton	J. H. Seaverns.
Norwood	G. Stewart Bowles.
Lancaster, North—	
North Lonsdale	George B. Haddock.
Lancaster	Norval Watson Helme.
Blackpool	W. W. Ashley.
Chorley	Lord Balcarres.
Lancaster, North-East—	
Darwen	John Rutherford.
Clitheroe	David James Shackleton.
Accrington	Sir Joseph Francis Leese.
Rossendale	Rt. Hon. Lewis Harcourt.
Lancaster, South-East—	
Westhoughton	W. T. Wilson.
Heywood	Edward Hopkinson Holden.
Middleton	W. R. Adkins.
Radcliffe-cum-Farnworth	Theodore Cook Taylor.
Eccles	Dr. G. H. Pollard.
Stretford	H. Nuttall.
Gorton	John Hodge.
Prestwich	Sir Frederick Cawley.
Lancaster, South-West—	
Southport	John Meir Astbury.
Ormskirk	Hon. Arthur Stanley.
Bootle	Colonel Thomas M. Sandys.
Widnes	Col. William Hall Walker.
Newton	James R. Seddon.
Ince	S. Walsh.
Leigh	John Fowler Leece Brunner.
Leeds—	
North	Rowland Hirst Barran.
Central	Robert Armitage.
East	J. O'Grady.
West	Rt. Hon. Herbert J. Gladstone.
South	Sir John Lawson Walton.
Leek Division, *see* Stafford.	
Leicester—	
Eastern or Melton	H. de R. Walker.
Mid or Loughborough	Maurice Levy.
Western or Bosworth	Sir Charles B. Bright McLaren, Bt.
Southern or Harborough	Rudulph Chambers Lehmann.
Leicester	F. Thomasson. James Ramsay Macdonald.

Lewisham	Major Edward Feetham Coates.
Lincoln—	
West Lindsay or Gainbsorough	Major Leslie Renton.
North Lindsay or Brigg	
Easy Lindsey or Louth	Robert William Perks.
South Lindsey or Horncastle	Lord Willoughby de Eresby.
North Kesteven or Sleaford	Arnold Lupton.
South Kesteven or Stamford	Lord J. Joicey-Cecil.
Holland or Spalding	Horace Rendall Mansfield.
Lincoln	Charles H. Roberts.
Liverpool—	
Kirkdale	David MacIver.
Walton	Frederick Edwin Smith.
Everton	J. S. Harmood-Banner.
West Derby	William Watson Rutherford.
Scotland	Thomas P. O'Connor.
Exchange	Richard Robert Cherry.
Abercromby	Colonel J. E. B. Seely.
East Toxteth	Austin Taylor.
West Toxteth	Robert P. Houston.
London	Rt. Hon. A. J. Balfour Sir F. G. Banbury, Bt.
London University	Sir Philip Magnus.
Lynn Regis	Carlyon Bellairs.
Maidstone	Lord Castlereagh.
Manchester—	
East	Thomas Gardiner Horridge.
North	Charles E. Schwann.
North-East	J. R. Clynes
North-West	Winston L. S. Churchill
South	Arthur Arlington Haworth.
South-West	George D. Kelley.
Marylebone—	
East	Lord Robert Cecil.
West	Sir Samuel Edward Scott, Bt.
Merioneth	Arthur Osmond-Williams.
Merthyr Tydvil	David Alfred Thomas. James Keir Hardie.
Middlesbrough	Joseph Havelock Wilson.
Middlesex—	
Enfield	James Branch.
Tottenham	Percy Alden.
Hornsey	Capt. C. B. Balfour.
Harrow	James Gibb.
Ealing	Herbert Nield.
Brentford	Dr. V. H. Rutherford.
Uxbridge	Sir Fred. D. Dixon-Hartland, Bt.

MONMOUTH—	
Northern	Rt. Hon. Reginald McKenna.
Western	Tom Richards.
Southern	Col. John Ivor Caradoc Herbert.
MONMOUTH, &c.	L. Haslam.
MONTGOMERY	David Davies.
MONTGOMERY, &c.	J. D. Rees.
MORPETH	Rt. Hon. Thomas Burt.
NEWCASTLE-UNDER-LYME	Josiah Clement Wedgwood.
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE	W. Hudson. T. Cairns.
NEWINGTON—	
Walworth	C. J. O'Donnell.
West	Captain Cecil Wm. Norton.
NORFOLK—	
North-Western	George White.
South-Western	R. Winfrey.
Northern	Sir William Brampton Gurdon.
Eastern	Robert John Price.
Mid	Lord Wodehouse.
Southern	Arthur W. Soames.
NORTHAMPTON—	
Northern	George Nicholls.
Eastern	Sir Francis Allston Channing.
Mid	H. Manfield.
Southern	T. N. A. Grove.
NORTHAMPTON	Herbert W. Paul. Dr. John Greenwood Shipman.
NORTHUMBERLAND—	
Wansbeck	Charles Fenwick.
Tyneside	J. M. Robertson.
Hexham	———
Berwick-upon-Tweed	Rt. Hon. Sir Edward Grey, Bt.
NORWICH	G. H. Roberts. Louis John Tillett.
NOTTINGHAM—	
Bassetlaw	F. Newnes.
Newark	J. R. Starkey.
Rushcliffe	Rt. Hon. John Edward Ellis.
Mansfield	Arthur B. Markham.
NOTTINGHAM—	
West	James Henry Yoxall.
East	Sir Henry John Stedman Cotton.
South	Arthur Richardson.
OLDHAM	Alfred Emmott. J. A. Bright.
OXFORD—	
Northern or Banbury	Hon. Eustace E. Fiennes.
Mid or Woodstock	E. N. Bennett.
Southern or Henley	Phillip Morell.

OXFORD	Viscount Valentia.
OXFORD UNIVERSITY	Sir William Reynell Anson, Bt. Rt. Hon. John Gilbert Talbot.
PADDINGTON—	
North	L. G. Chiozza-Money.
South	Sir T. George Fardell.
PEMBROKE	John Wynford Phillips.
PEMBROKE AND HAVERFORDWEST	O. C. Phillips.
PENRYN AND FALMOUTH	John Barker.
PETERBOROUGH	Granville George Greenwood.
PLYMOUTH	T. W. Dobson. Charles E. Mallet.
PONTEFRACT	Thomas Willans Nussey.
PORTSMOUTH	Thomas Arthur Bramsdon. Sir John Baker.
PRESTON	John Thomas MacPherson. Harold Cox.
RADNOR	Frank Edwards.
READING	Rufus Daniel Isaacs.
ROCHDALE	A. G. C. Harvey.
ROCHESTER	Ernest H. Lamb.
RUTLAND	Rt. Hon. George Henry Finch.
ST. GEORGE'S, HANOVER SQUARE	Rt. Hon. Alfred Lyttelton.
ST. HELENS	Thomas Glover.
ST. PANCRAS—	
North	Willoughby Hyett Dickinson.
East	Hugh Cecil Lea.
West	Sir William Job Collins.
South	P. Whitwell Wilson.
SALFORD—	
North	William Pollard Byles.
South	Hilaire J. P. R. Belloc.
West	George William Agnew.
SALISBURY	Sir Edward Priaulx Tennant.
SCARBOROUGH	Walter Russell Rea.
SHEFFIELD—	
Attercliffe	J. Batty Langley.
Brightside	John Tudor Walters.
Central	Col. Sir C. E. H. Vincent, K.C.M.G., C.B.
Hallam	Rt. Hon. Chas. B. Stuart Wortley.
Ecclesall	Samuel Roberts.

SHOREDITCH—	
Hoxton	Hon. Claude George D. Hay.
Haggerston	William Randal Cremer.
SHREWSBURY	Sir Clement Lloyd Hill.
SHROPSHIRE—	
Western or Oswestry	W. Clive Bridgeman.
Northern or Newport	Rt. Hon. Col. William Kenyon Slaney.
Mid or Wellington	C. S. Henry.
Southern or Ludlow	Rowland Hunt.
SOMERSET—	
Northern	W. H. B. Hope.
Wells	Thomas Ball Silcock.
Frome	John Emmott Barlow
Eastern	J. W. H. Thompson.
Southern	Sir Edward Strachey, Bt.
Bridgwater	H. G. Montgomery.
Western or Wellington	Rt. Hon. Sir A. F. Acland Hood, Bt.
SOUTHAMPTON	Lt.-Col. Ivor Philipps. William Dudley Ward.
SOUTH SHIELDS	Sir William Snowdon Robson.
SOUTHWARK—	
West	Rt. Hon. Richard Knight Causton.
Rotherhithe	Hubert W. Carr-Gomm.
Bermondsey	Dr. George Cooper.
STAFFORD—	
Leek	Robert Pearce.
Burton	Robert F. Ratcliffe.
Western	H. D. McLaren.
North-Western	A. Billson.
Lichfield	Thomas Courtenay T. Warner.
Kingswinford	H. Staveley Hill.
Handsworth	E. C. Meysey-Thompson.
STAFFORD	Charles Edward Shaw.
STALYBRIDGE	J. F. Cheetham.
STOCKPORT	G. J. Wardle. James Duckworth.
STOCKTON	Col. Sir E. H. O. Robert Ropner, Bt.
STOKE-UPON-TRENT	John Ward.
STRAND (Westminster)	Hon. W. F. Danvers Smith.
SUFFOLK—	
Northern or Lowestoft	H. W. Beauchamp.
North-Eastern or Eye	Harold Pearson.
North-Western or Stowmarket	George A. Hardy.
South or Sudbury	W. C. Heaton-Armstong.
South-Eastern or Woodbridge	Robert Lacey Everett.

SUNDERLAND	James Stuart. T. Summerbell.
SURREY—	
North Western or Chertsey	F. J. Marnham.
South-Western or Guildford	W. H. Cowan.
South-Eastern or Reigate	H. C. Brodie.
Mid or Epsom	William Keswick.
Kingston	George Cave.
North-Eastern or Wimbledon	Charles Eric Hambro.
SUSSEX—	
North-Western or Horsham	Lord Turnour.
South-Western or Chichester	Lord Edmund Talbot.
Northern or East Grinstead	C. H. Corbett.
Mid or Lewes	Rt. Hon. Sir Hy. Aubrey Fletcher, Bt.
Southern or Eastbourne	Hubert Beaumont.
Eastern or Rye	George Loyd Courthope.
SWANSEA—	
Town	Sir George Newnes, Bt.
District	Sir David Brynmor Jones.
TAUNTON	Sir E. Boyle, Bt., K.C.
TOWER HAMLETS—	
Whitechapel	Stuart Montagu Samuel.
St. George's	W. Wedgwood Benn.
Limehouse	William Pearce.
Mile End	Bertram S. Straus.
Stepney	Major Sir William E. Evans Gordon.
Bow and Bromley	G. Stopford Brooke.
Poplar	Rt. Hon. Sydney Charles Buxton.
TYNEMOUTH	Herbert J. Craig.
WAKEFIELD	Edward Allen Brotherton.
WALSALL	Major Edward Martin Dunn.
WANDSWORTH	Sir Henry Kimber, Bt.
WARRINGTON	Arthur H. Crosfield.
WARWICK—	
Northern or Tamworth	Sir Philip Albert Muntz, Bt.
North-Eastern or Nuneaton	William Johnson.
South-Western or Stratford on-Avon	Capt. M. K. Smith.
South-Eastern or Rugby	Corrie Grant.
WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON	Thomas Henry Devereux Berridge.
WEDNESBURY	Clarendon Golding Hyde.
WEST BROMWICH	Dr. Alfred Ernest W. Hazel.
WEST HAM—	
North	Charles Fredk. Gurney Masterman.
South	Will Thorne.

Westminster	W. L. Ashmead B. Burdett-Coutts.
Westmoreland—	
Northern or Appleby	Leif Jones.
Southern or Kendal	D. Stewart-Smith.
Whitehaven	W. J. Dalzell Burnyeat.
Wigan	Sir Francis Sharpe Powell, Bt.
Wight, Isle of	Godfrey Baring.
Wilts—	
Northern or Cricklade	Dr. John Massie.
North-Western or Chippenham	Sir John Dickson Poynder, Bt.
Western or Westbury	John Michael Fleetwood Fuller.
Eastern or Devizes	F. N. Rogers.
Southern or Wilton	L. L. Morse.
Winchester	Hon. Guy Victor Baring.
Windsor	James Francis Mason.
Wolverhampton—	
West	T. F. Richards.
East	Rt. Hon. Sir H. H. Fowler.
South	Sir Henry Norman.
Woolwich	William Crooks.
Worcester—	
West or Bewdley	Alfred Baldwin.
South or Evesham	Col. Charles Wigram Long.
Mid or Droitwich	C. B. Harmsworth
Northern	John William Wilson.
Eastern	Rt. Hon. J. Austen Chamberlain.
Worcester	———
York, North Riding—	
Thirsk and Malton	Lord Helmsley
Richmond	Francis Dyke Acland.
Cleveland	Herbert Louis Samuel.
Whitby	Hon. Gervase Beckett.
York, East Riding—	
Holderness	Arthur Stanley Wilson.
Buckrose	Luke White.
Howdenshire	Col. Henry Broadley-Harrison-Broadley.
York, West Riding—	
Skipton	W. Clough.
Keighley	John Brigg.
Shipley	Percy Illingworth.
Sowerby	John Sharp Higham.
Elland	Charles Philips Trevelyan.
Morley	Alfred Eddison Hutton.
Normanton	F. Hall.
Colne Valley	Sir James Kitson, Bt.

York, West Riding—*continued.*	
Holmfirth	Henry Joseph Wilson.
Barnsley	Joseph Walton.
Hallamshire	J. Wadsworth.
Rotherham	Sir Henry William Holland.
Doncaster	Charles Norris Nicholson.
Ripon	H. F. B. Lynch.
Otley	James Hastings Duncan.
Barkston Ash	George Lane-Fox.
Osgoldcross	J. Compton Rickett.
Pudsey	George Whiteley.
Spen Valley	Sir Thomas Palmer Whittaker.
York	Hamar Greenwood. George Denison Faber.

SCOTLAND (72 Members.)

Aberdeen—	
East	James Murray.
West	J. McD. Henderson.
Aberdeen—	
North	Duncan Vernon Pirie.
South	——
Argyll	John Stirling Ainsworth.
Ayr—	
North	Hon. Thomas H. Cochrane.
South	W. P. Beale.
Ayr Burghs	George Younger.
Banff	W. Waring.
Berwick	Harold John Tennant.
Bute	Norman Lamont.
Caithness	Robert Leicester Harmsworth.
Clackmannan & Kinross	Eugene Wason.
Dumbarton	J. D. White.
Dumfries	P. A. Molteno.
Dumfries, &c.	J. W. Gulland.
Dundee	Rt. Hon. Edmund Robertson. A. Wilkie.
Edinburgh (Midlothian)	Lord Dalmeny.

Edinburgh—	
East	George McCrae.
West	Sir Lewis McIver, Bt.
Central	Charles E. Price.
South	Arthur Dewar.
Edinburgh and St. Andrews Universities	Sir J. Batty Tuke.
Elgin and Nairn	A. Williamson.
Elgin, Banff, &c.	J. E. Sutherland.
Falkirk, &c.	J. A. Murray Macdonald.
Fife—	
Eastern	Rt. Hon. Herbert H. Asquith.
Western	John Deans Hope.
Forfar	Rt. Hon. John Sinclair.
Glasgow—	
Bridgeton	J. W. Cleland.
Camlachie	Alexander Cross.
St. Rollox	T. McKinnon Wood.
Central	A. M. Torrance.
College	H. A. Watt.
Tradeston	A. Cameron Corbett.
Blackfriars and Hutchesontown	J. N. Barnes.
Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities	Sir H. Craik.
Greenock	Halley Stuart.
Haddington	Rt. Hon. Richard B. Haldane.
Hawick, &c.	Rt. Hon. Thomas Shaw.
Inverness	John Alexander Dewar.
Inverness, &c.	J. Annan Bryce.
Kilmarnock, &c.	A. R. Rainy.
Kincardine	John William Crombie.
Kirkcaldy, &c.	James H. Dalziel.
Kirkcudbright	Major G. McMicking.
Lanark—	
Govan	R. Duncan.
Partick	R. Balfour.
North Western	William Mitchell-Thomson.
North-Eastern	Alexander Findlay.
Mid	James Caldwell.
Southern	W. Menzies.
Leith, &c.,	Ronald C. Munro Ferguson.

Linlithgow	Alexander Ure.
Montrose, &c.	Rt. Hon. John Morley.
Orkney & Shetland	J. Cathcart Wason.
Paisley	John McCallum.
Peebles & Selkirk	Master of Elibank.
Perth—	
Eastern	Thomas Ryburn Buchanan.
Western	D. C. Erskine.
Perth	Sir R. Pullar.
Renfrew—	
Eastern	R. Laidlaw.
Western	Sir T. Glen-Coats, Bt.
Ross & Cromartie	James Galloway Weir.
Roxburgh	Sir John Jardine.
St. Andrews, &c.	Major Anstruther-Gray.
Stirling	Donald McKenzie Smeaton.
Stirling. &c.	Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.
Sutherland	Alpheus Cleophas Morton.
Wick, &c.	Sir Arthur Bignold.
Wigton	Lord Dalrymple.

IRELAND (103 Members).

Antrim—	
North	R. Glendinning.
Mid	Hon. Rob. Torrens O'Neill.
East	Colonel James McCalmont.
South	Charles Curtis Craig.
Armagh—	
North	Wm. Moore.
Mid	John Brownlee Lonsdale.
South	W. McKillop.
Belfast—	
East	Gustavus Wilhelm Wolff.
South	Thomas Henry Sloan.
West	J. Devlin.
North	Rt. Hon. Sir D. Dixon.
Carlow	John Hammond.

Cavan—	
West	Vincent Paul Kennedy.
East	Samuel Young.
Clare—	
East	William H. K. Redmond.
West	J. Halpin.
Cork—	
North	James Christopher Flynn.
North-East	William Abraham.
Mid	Daniel Daniel Sheehan.
East	Capt. A. J. C. Donelan.
West	James Gilhooly.
South	Edward Barry.
South-East	Eugene Crean.
Cork	William O'Brien. Augustine Roche.
Donegal—	
North	P. O'Doherty.
West	Hugh A. Law.
East	C. McVeigh.
South	J. G. Swift McNeill.
Down—	
North	Thomas Lorimer Corbett.
East	Captain James Craig.
South	Jeremiah MacVeagh.
West	H. Liddell.
Dublin—	
North	John J. Clancy.
South	Rt. Won. Walter H. Long.
Dublin—	
College Green	Joseph Patrick Nannetti.
Dublin Harbour	Timothy C. Harrington.
St. Stephen's Green	Lawrence Ambrose Waldron.
St. Patrick's	William Field.
Dublin University	Right Hon. Sir E. H. Carson. Rt. Hon. J. H. M. Campbell.
Fermanagh—	
North	G. Fetherstonhaugh
South	Jeremiah Jordan.
Galway—	
Connemara	William O'Malley.
North	Richard Hazleton.
East	John Roche.
South	William J. Duffy.
Galway	S. L. Gwynn.

Kerry—	
North	Michael Joseph Flavin
West	Thomas O'Donnell.
South	John P. Boland.
East	John Murphy.
Kildare—	
North	John O'Connor.
South	Dennis Kilbride.
Kilkenny—	
North	Michael Meagher.
South	James O'Mara.
Kilkenny	Patrick O'Brien.
King's Co.—	
Birr	Michael Reddy.
Tullamore	Edmund Haviland Burke.
Leitrim—	
North	C. J. Dolan.
South	T. Smith.
Limerick—	
West	Patrick Joseph O'Shaughnessy.
East	William Lundon.
Limerick	Michael Joyce.
Londonderry—	
North	H. T. Barrie.
South	John Gordon.
Londonderry	Marquis of Hamilton.
Longford—	
North	James Patrick Farrell.
South	Hon. Edward Blake.
Louth—	
North	Timothy M. Healy.
South	Joseph Nolan.
Mayo—	
North	Conor O'Kelly.
West	Dr. R. Ambrose.
East	John Dillon.
South	John O'Donnell.
Meath—	
North	Patrick White.
South	David Sheehy.
Monaghan—	
North	P. O'Hare.
South	J. McKean.
Newry	J J Mooney.

QUEEN'S CO.	
Ossory	William Delany.
Leix	P. A. Meehan.
ROSCOMMON—	
North	James O'Kelly.
South	John P. Hayden.
SLIGO—	
North	P. A. McHugh.
South	John O'Dowd.
TIPPERARY—	
North	Michael Hogan.
Mid...	Kendal E. O'Brien.
South	John Cullinan.
East	Thomas Joseph Condon.
TYRONE—	
North	———
Mid	George Murnaghan.
East	T. M. Kettle.
South	Thomas W. Russell.
WATERFORD—	
West	James John O'Shee.
East	Patrick Joseph Power.
WATERFORD	John E. Redmond.
WESTMEATH—	
North	L. Ginnell.
South	Donal Sullivan.
WEXFORD—	
North	Sir T. H. Grattan Esmonde.
South	Peter Ffrench.
WICKLOW—	
West	James O'Connor.
East	Denis J. Cogan.

SUMMARY.

	No. of Members	
ENGLAND		
Counties	234	
Metropolitan Boroughs	62	
Provincial Cities and Boroughs	164	
		460
WALES		
Counties	19	
Boroughs	11	
		30
SCOTLAND		
Counties	39	
Cities and Burghs	31	
		70
IRELAND		
Counties	85	
Cities and Boroughs	16	
		101
UNIVERSITIES		
England	5	
Scotland	2	
Ireland	2	
		9
Total number of Members		670

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO

VOLUME CLXIX.

FIRST VOLUME OF SESSION 1907.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

Page

The King's Speech.—The King, being seated on the Throne, and the Commons being at the Bar with their Speaker, His Majesty was pleased to make a most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and then retired 1

Sat First.—The Viscount Hampden sat first in Parliament after the death of his father 4

Roll of the Lords.—Garter King of Arms attending, delivered at the Table (in the usual manner) a List of the Lords Temporal in the Second Session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament of the United Kingdom. The same was ordered to lie on the Table 4

Select Vestries.—Bill, *pro forma*, read 1ª.

Address in Reply to His Majesty's Most Gracious Speech.

Lord Castletown 4
The Earl of Chichester 12

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty in reply to the gracious Speech from the Throne."—(*Lord Castletown.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 18
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 31

On Question, Motion agreed to, *nemine dissentiente*, and ordered to be presented to His Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

The Earl of Onslow—Appointed *nemine dissentiente* to take the Chair in all Committees of this House for the session.

Committee for Privileges—Appointed.

Committee for the Journals—Appointed.

Feb. 12.] *Page*

Stoppages in the Streets—Order to prevent, renewed.

Appeal Committee—Appointed 39

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House that the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI., viz.:

Malta.—Further correspondence relating to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta (in continuation of [Cd.3099], September 1906). (22nd December.)

Fisheries (Ireland).—Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland on the sea and inland fisheries of Ireland, for the year 1904. Part II. Scientific Investigations. (28th December.)

Colonies—I. Annual.

No. 513. Basutoland (Report for 1905–1906).

No. 514. British Guiana (Report for 1905–1906). (28th December.)

No. 515. British Honduras (Report for 1905).

No. 516. Northern Nigeria (Report for 1905–1906). (11th January.)

No. 517. Bechuanaland Protectorate (Report for 1905–1906). (5th February.)

II. Miscellaneous.

No. 39. Jamaica (Report on Cayman Islands). (29th January.)

Africa, No. 2 (1906).—Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brusssels, transmitting convention respecting liquors in Africa; signed at Brussels, 3rd November, 1906. (28th December.)

Trade Reports: I. Annual Series.

No. 3739. Italy (Sardinia, 1904–1905.) (29th December.)
No. 3740. Regency of Tunis, 1905.
No. 3741. Finances of Denmark (1903–1904 and 1904–1905). (9th January.)
No. 3742. Ecuador (1905).

No. 3743. Portugal (Goa). (23rd January.)

II. Miscellaneous Series.—No. 656. Belgium (Precautions taken to counteract ankylostomiasis). (7th February.)

Straits Settlements.—Return of amount of opium consumed and the revenue derived therefrom in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States during the years 1896 to 1905. (31st December.)

Treaty Series:

No. 1. (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy respecting Abyssinia; signed at London, 13th December, 1906. (3rd January.)

No. 2. (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy, respecting the importation of arms and ammunition into Abyssinia; signed at London, 13th December, 1906. (10th January.)

No. 3. (1907).—Convention between the United Kingdom and France concerning the New Hebrides; signed in London, 20th October, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 9th January, 1906.) (19th January.)

No. 4. (1907).—General Act of the International Conference at Algeciras relating to the affairs of Morocco, 7th April, 1906. (Ratifications deposited at Madrid, 31st December, 1906.)

No. 5. (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the frontier between the British and French Possessions from the Gulf of Guinea to the Niger, 19th October, 1906. (9th February.)

AUSTRALASIA.—Correspondence relating to the Convention with France, dated 20th October, 1906, respecting the New Hebrides. (4th January.)

WESTERN PACIFIC (NEW HEBRIDES).—Report on the Trade of the New Hebrides for 1905. (4th January.)

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

I. (Proceedings).—Return for the month of November, 1906. (4th January.)
II. Return of Advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of May, 1906. (7th January.)

TROPICAL DISEASES RESEARCH FUND.—Report of the Advisory Committee for the Tropical Diseases Research Fund, for the year 1906. (9th January.)

EDUCATION RATES.—Report of the Departmental Committee on Education Rates, with appendices. (15th January.)

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN (ROYAL COMMISSION).—Final Report of the Commissioners, with appendix. (Report, minutes of evidence, and documents). (17th January.)

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (ENGLAND AND WALES, 1905). (PART I. CRIMINAL STATISTICS).—Statistics relating to criminal proceedings, police, coroners, prisons, reformatory and industrial schools, and criminal lunatics, for the year 1905. (19th January.)

ALIENS ACT, 1905.—Return of alien passengers brought to the United Kingdom from ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ended 31st December, 1906; together with the number of expulsion orders made during that period requiring aliens to leave the United Kingdom. (22nd January.)

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

I. Annual Report on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in the year 1905–1906; with statements respecting the several colleges and institutions aided, and a summary of the agricultural instruction provided by county councils in 1905–1906, together with the expenditure on the same.

Feb. 12.]

II. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1906 (Adulteration) (Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs). No. 944. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (General) Regulations, 1906, dated 27th December, 1906. No. 945. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Sampling, etc.) Regulations, 1906, dated 27th December, 1906. No. 946. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Limits of Error) Regulations, 1906, dated 27th December, 1906. (22nd January.)

Congestion in Ireland (Royal Commission).—Second Report of the Commissioners, with appendix. (Report, minutes of evidence, and documents relating thereto.) (23rd January.)

Board of Education.

I. (Evening Schools). List of evening schools in England and Wales, for the school year ended 31st July, 1905. (17th January.)

II. Report of public inquiry (Section 23 (10), Education Act, 1902) in respect of the proposed provision of a new public elementary school in the parish of Llanasa (administrative county of Flint). (25th January.)

Navy.

I. (Battle Practice). Result of battle practice in His Majesty's Fleet, 1906. (25th January.)

II. (Manœuvres). Report of 1906. (9th February.)

Tuberculosis (Human and Bovine (Royal Commission)).—Second Interim Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the relations of human and animal tuberculosis. (25th January.)

Factory and Workshop.

I. Supplement to the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshiops for the year 1905. Return of persons employed in 1904 in workshops and laundries. (29th January.)

II. (Industrial Poisoning and Fatal Accidents). Preliminary tables (subject to correction) of cases of industrial poisoning and fatal accidents in factories, workshops, etc., during the year 1906. (7th February.)

Railway Servants (Hours of Labour).—Return in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of railway servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of July, 1906, on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time, or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours' rest. (31st January.)

Vivisection (Royal Commission).—First Report of the Commissioners, and minutes of evidence, October to December, 1906. (2nd February.)

India (Excise).—Report of the Indian Excise Committee, 1905–1906. (2nd February.)

Statistics.—Statistical abstract for the British Empire in each year from 1891 to 1905. Third Number. (5th February.)

Feb. 12.]

Page

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.—Royal Warrant, bearing date 10th September, 1906, amending the statutes of the university. (6th February.)

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887.—Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1906. (6th February.)

EVICTIONS (IRELAND).—Return of evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 31st December, 1906. (7th February.)

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.—Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 30th September, 1906, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade, upon certain accidents which were inquired into. (7th February.)

COMMERCIAL, No. 1. (1907.)—International Sugar Commission, Autumn Session, 1906. Report of Proceedings (in continuation of "Commercial No. 5. (1906.)") (9th February.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 39

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE TREASURY RESPECTING THE RAISING OF BUENOS AYRES TO THE RANK OF A FIRST CLASS MISSION, 1906.—Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 44

LUNACY.—Return to the Lord Chancellor of number of visits made and number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ended 31st December, 1906.

Return to the Lord Chancellor of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses or upon any other account from 1st January to 31st December, 1906 44

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.—Rules of the Supreme Court (December) 1906 44

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890; CONSULAR SALARIES AND FEES ACT, 1891; FOREIGN MARRIAGE ACT, 1892.—Orders in Council, dated 21st December, 1906, entitled "The Consular Fees (General) Order in Council, 1906"; "The Japan (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906;" "The China and Corea (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906" .. 44

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Order in Council, dated 21st December, 1906, entitled "The Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906, No. 2" 44

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF ESSEX).—Order made by the council of the county of Essex altering the name of the Harlow Churchgate Street Polling District to that of the Harlow Polling District 44

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Licences granted by His Majesty to Kate Ellen Hanton, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Home of Compassion, London, S.W.; Annie Skinner, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, London, N.W. 45

Feb. 12.] *Page*

SUPERANNUATION (TREASURY) MINUTES.—Dated 8th January, 1907, granting retired allowance to Alfred Fred. Thomas Doubtfire, telegraphist, Central Telegraph Office, Post Office, under Section 2 of Superannuation Act, 1887.

Dated 5th February, 1907, granting a retired allowance to Mr. Charles Arthur Gulliver, late chief clerk, Reading Post Office, under Section 2 of Superannuation Act, 1887.

Dated 30th January, 1907, declaring that Eldred Harbutt, artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

Dated 4th February, 1907, declaring that John Marcus Lawrenson, fitter lad, Royal Gun Factory, War Office, was appointed without a Civil Service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department 45

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN GUARANTEED LOAN OF 1855.—Account for the year to 31st December, 1906, prepared under the Act, showing the sums issued and applied for interest, as guaranteed by Her late Majesty, and for management of the Imperial Ottoman Guaranteed Loan of 1855, and also of the repayment in respect of advances under the said Act 45

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.—Regulation dated 31st December, 1906, made by the Treasury under Friendly Societies Act, 1896 45

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES (FEES).—Regulation dated 31st December, 1906, made by the Treasury under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893 45

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

I. Order made by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 22nd December, 1906, providing for the early closing of certain shops in the burgh of Rutherglen.

II. Orders made by the following county councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the following districts.

County council of Glamorgan, Penarth and Briton Ferry Urban Districts.

County council of Lancaster, Rishton Urban District.

County Council of West Riding of Yorkshire, Elland Urban District and Bingley Urban District.

III. Orders made by the following borough councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops—

Borough council of Bacup.

Borough council of West Hartlepool.

Borough council of Beverley.

Page

Borough council of Wallsend. 46

LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1881.—Annual Local Taxation (Scotland) Returns, for the year 1904–1905 46

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS ACT, 1896; MOTOR-CAR, ACT, 1903.—Order by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 23rd January, 1907, prohibiting motor-car traffic on certain highways in the county of Stirling 46

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.—Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of Glasgow to the Secretary for Scotland under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act, for the year 1905–1906. 46

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.—Regulations for transfers of inebriates from one reformatory to another in Ireland 46

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND).—Amending regulations (organisation for unemployed) (Ireland), 1906 46

PUBLIC RECORDS (KING'S BENCH, CROWN SIDE).—Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents belonging to the Crown side of the late Court of King's Bench and present King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office 47

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Account of the amount of all Exchequer Bills and other Government securities which have been purchased by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, or on which any sum or sums have been lent and advanced for the Public Service by the Governor and Company of the said Bank in the year ended 5th January, 1907; showing what amount of such bills before the making up of this account has been paid off and discharged, and the amount of such Exchequer Bills or other Government securities which was in the hands of the Governor and Company of the said Bank on the 5th day of January, 1907, aforesaid.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 47

MARGATE PIER AND HARBOUR COMPANY.—Report and Statement of accounts for the year ended 5th April, 1906; Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 47

House adjourned at a quarter before Seven o'clock, to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 12TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

Message to attend His Majesty.

Feb. 12.] Page

The House went, and, being returned;

Mr. Speaker informed the House, That he had issued, during the Recess, Warrants for New Writs, for Derbyshire (North-East Division), in the room of Thomas Dolling Bolton, esquire, deceased.

For Banffshire, Alexander William Black, esquire, deceased.

For City of Perth, Robert Wallace, esquire, K.C., who hath accepted the office of Chairman of Quarter Sessions for the County of London 47

New Writs.—For County of Lincoln (North Lindsey or Brigg Division), in the room of Harold James Reckitt, esquire (Chiltern Hundreds).

For County of Monmouth (Northern Division), The Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, President of the Board of Education.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Elections.—Ordered, That all Members who are returned for two or more places in any part of the United Kingdom do make their Election for which of the places they will serve, within one week after it shall appear that there is no question upon the Return for that place; and if anything shall come in question touching the Return or Election of any Member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in debate; and that all Members returned upon double Returns do withdraw till their Returns are determined.

Resolved, That no Peer of the Realm, except such Peers of Ireland as shall for the time being be actually elected, and shall not have declined to serve, for any county, city, or borough of Great Britain, hath any right to give his vote in the Election of any Member to serve in Parliament.

Resolved, That it is a high infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons of the United Kingdom for any Lord of Parliament, or other Peer or Prelate, not being a Peer of Ireland at the time elected, and not having declined to serve for any county, city, or borough of Great Britain, to concern himself in the election of Members to serve for the Commons in Parliament, except only any Peer of Ireland, at such Elections in Great Britain respectively where such Peer shall appear as a candidate, or by himself, or any others, be proposed to be elected; or for any Lord-Lieutenant or Governor of any county to avail himself of any authority derived from his Commission, to influence the Election of any Member to serve for the Commons in Parliament.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or endeavoured so to be, by Bribery, or any other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such Bribery or other corrupt practices 48

Witnesses.—Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been tampering with any Witness, in respect of his evidence to be given to this House, or any Committee thereof, or directly or indirectly hath endeavoured to deter or hinder any person from appearing or giving evidence, the same is declared to be a high crime or misdemeanour; and this House will proceed with the utmost severity against such offender.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath given false evidence in any case before this House, or any Committee thereof, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against such offender 49

METROPOLITAN POLICE.—Ordered, That the Commissioners of the Police of the Metropolis do take care that, during the Session of Parliament, the passages through the streets leading to this House be kept free and open, and that no obstruction be permitted to hinder the passage of Members to and from this House, and that no disorder be allowed in Westminster Hall, or in the passages leading to this House, during the Sitting of Parliament, and that there be no annoyance therein or thereabouts; and that the Sergeant at Arms attending this House do communicate this Order to the Commissioners aforesaid 49

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.—Ordered, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker, and that he do appoint the printing thereof; and that no person, but such as he shall appoint, do presume to print the same 49

PRIVILEGES.—Ordered, That a Committee of Privileges be appointed 50

Outlawries Bill.—" For the more effectual preventing Clandestine Outlawries," read the first time; to be read a second time 50

JOURNAL.—Ordered, That the Journal of this House, from the end of the last Session to the end of the present Session, with an Index thereto, be printed.

Ordered, That the said Journal and Index be printed by the appointment and under the direction of Sir Courtenay Peregrine Ilbert, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the Clerk of this House.

Ordered, That the said Journal and Index be printed by such person as shall be licensed by Mr. Speaker, and that no other person do presume to print the same 50

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).—The following Papers presented by His Majesty's Command during the Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August, 1896:—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3739 to 3743.

2. Trade Reports (Miscellaneous Series).—Copy of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 656.

3. Africa (No. 2, 1906).—Copy of Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brussels, transmitting Convention respecting Liquors in Africa. Signed at Brussels, 3rd November, 1906.

4. International Sugar Commission (Commercial, No. 1, 1907).—Copy of Report of Proceedings of the International Sugar Commission, Autumn Session, 1906.

5. Treaty Series (No. 1, 1907).—Copy of Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy respecting Abyssinia. Signed at London, 13th December, 1906.

6. Treaty Series (No. 2, 1907).—Copy of Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy respecting the Importation of Arms and Ammunition into Abyssinia. Signed at London, 13th December, 1906.

Feb. 12.] *Page*

7. Treaty Series (No. 3, 1907).—Copy of Convention between the United Kingdom and France concerning the New Hebrides. Signed at London, 20th October, 1906. Ratifications exchanged at London, 9th January, 1907.

8. Treaty Series (No. 4, 1907).—Copy of General Act of the International Conference at Algeciras relating to the Affairs of Morocco. 7th April, 1906. Ratifications deposited at Madrid, 31st December, 1906.

9. Treaty Series (No. 5, 1907).—Copy of Agreemeent between the United Kingdom and France relative to the Frontier between the British and French Possessions from the Gulf of Guinea to the Niger. 19th October, 1906.

10. Colonial Reports (Annual).—Copies of Reports Nos. 513 (Basutoland, Report for 1905–6), 514 (British Guiana, Report for 1905–6), 515 (British Honduras, Annual Report for 1905), 516 (Northern Nigeria, Report for 1905–6), 517 (Bechuanaland Protectorate, Report for 1905–6).

11. Colonial Reports (Miscellaneous).—Copy of Report No. 39 (Jamaica (Cayman Islands), Report on the Cayman Islands).

12. Tropical Diseases Research Fund.—Copy of Report of the Advisory Committee for the Tropical Diseases Research Fund for the year 1906.

13. Australasia.—Copy of Correspondence relating to the Convention with France, dated 20th October, 1906, respecting the New Hebrides.

14. Straits Settlements.—Copy of Return of the Amount of Opium consumed and the Revenue derived therefrom in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States during the years 1896 to 1905.

15. Western Pacific.—Copy of Report on the Trade of the New Hebrides for 1905.

16. Malta.—Copy of Further Correspondence relating to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta.

17. Factories and Workshops.—Copy of Supplement to the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1905. Return of Persons employed in 1904 in Workshops and Laundries.

18. Factory and Workshops Acts (Industrial Poisoning and Fatal Accidents).—Copy of preliminary Tables (subject to correction) of cases of Industrial Poisoning and Fatal Accidents in Factories, Workshops, etc., during the year 1906.

19. Tuberculosis (Human and Bovine) (Royal Commission).—Copy of Second Interim Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the relations of Human and Animal Tuberculosis.

20. Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Dublin (Royal Commission).—Copy of Final Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Documents).

21. Vivisection (Royal Commission).—Copy of First Report of the Commissioners and Minutes of Evidence. October to December, 1906.

22. Congestion in Ireland (Royal Commission).—Copy of Second Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Documents relating thereto).

23. Judicial Statistics (England and Wales).—Copy of Judicial Statistics Part I., relating to Criminal Proceedings, Police, Coroners, Prisons, Reformatory and Industrial Schools, and Criminal Lunatics, for England and Wales for 1905.

24. Aliens Act, 1905.—Copy of Return of Alien Passengers brought to the United Kingdom from Ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ending 31st December, 1906, together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during that period requiring Aliens to leave the United Kingdom.

25. Naval Manœuvres.—Copy of Report of the Naval Manœuvres of 1906.

26. Navy (Battle Practice).—Copy of Result of Battle Practice in His Majesty's Fleet, 1906.

27. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (Distribution of Grants).—Copy of Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research in the year 1905–6, etc.

28. Statistical Abstract (British Empire).—Copy of Statistical Abstract for the British Empire in each year from 1891 to 1905. Third Number.

29. Railway Servants (Hours of Labour).—Copy of Return, in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of Railway Servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of July, 1906, on duty on the Railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time; or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest.

30. Railway Accidents.—Copy of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 30th September, 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into.

31. Board of Education.—Copy of List of Evening Schools under the administration of the Board of Education for the school year ending 31st July, 1905.

32. Board of Education.—Copy of Report of Public Inquiry (Section 23 (10), Education Act, 1902) in respect of the proposed provision of a new Public Elementary School in the Parish of Llanasa, Administrative County of Flint.

33. Education Rates.—Copy of Report of the Departmental Committee on Education Rates, together with Appendices.

34. Royal Irish Constabulary (Pensions).—Copy of Return showing the names of all Constabulary Officers now in receipt of Pensions, of all Head Constables, Sergeants and Constables, and of all Widows and children to whom pensions have been granted since the Constabulary Estimate for 1906–7 was prepared, with the amount and date of Pension in each case.

Feb. 12.] *Page*

35. Fisheries (Ireland).—Copy of Report on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for 1904. Part II. Scientific Investigations.

36. Irish Land Commission (Proceedings).—Copy of Return of Proceedings of the Irish Land Commission during the month of November, 1906.

37. Irish Land Commission.—Copy of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of May, 1906.

38. Royal University of Ireland.—Copy of Royal Warrant, dated 10th September, 1906, amending the Statutes of the University.

39. Land Law (Ireland) Act. 1887 (Eviction Notices).—Copy of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1906.

40. Evictions (Ireland).—Copy of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 31st December, 1906.

Ordered, That the said Papers do lie upon the Table 50

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.—Copy presented, of Regulations for transfers of Inebriates from one Reformatory to another in Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 54

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, 1905.—Copy presented, of Amending Regulations made by the Local Government Board for Ireland (Organisation for Unemployed (Ireland), 1906) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 54

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.—Copies presented, of Treasury Minutes declaring that the under-mentioned persons were appointed to the offices set against their names without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Heads of their Departments, viz. :—Edward Harbutt, Artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield; John Mowans Lawrenson, Fitter Lad, Royal Gun Factory, War Office; [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 54

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.—Copies presented, of Treasury Minutes granting a retired allowance to each of the following, viz. : Charles Arthur Gulliver, late Chief Clerk, Reading, Post Office; Alfred Fred Thomas Doubtfire, Telegraphist, Central Telegraph Office, Post Office [by Act]; to lie upon the Table. 54

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN GUARANTEED LOAN OF 1855.—Copy presented, of Account for the year 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 55

TREASURY CHEST.—Account presented, for the year 1905–6, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 1] 55

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1906.—Copies presented, of Statutory Rules and Orders, entitled (1) The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (General) Regulations of 1906; (2) The Fertilisers and Feeding Staffs (Sampling, etc.) Regulations of 1906; (3) The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Limits of Error) Regulations of 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 55

Feb. 12.] *Pag*

Penal Servitude Acts (Conditional Licence).—Copy presented, of a Licence granted to Annie Skinner, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, London, N.W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 55

Penal Servitude Acts (Conditional Licence).—Copy presented, of a Licence granted to Kate Ellen Hanton, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Home of Compassion, London, S.W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 55

Polling Districts (County of Essex).—Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the county of Essex, altering the name of the Harlow Churchgate Street Polling District to that of the Harlow Polling District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 55

Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Beverley, Bacup, and Wallsend, of the County Borough of West Hartlepool, of the Councils of the counties of Glamorgan, Lancaster, and of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 55

Friendly Societies.—Copy presented, of Regulation, dated December 31st, 1906, made by the Treasury, under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

Industrial and Provident Societies (Fees). Copy presented, of Regulation, dated 31st December, 1906, made by the Treasury, under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 21st December, 1906, entitled the Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906 (No. 2) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

Foreign Jurisdiction Act, 1890, Consular Salaries and Fees Act, 1891, and Foreign Marriage Act, 1892.—Copy presented, of Orders in Council of the 21st December, 1906, entitled (1) The Consular Fees (General) Order in Council, 1906; (2) The Japan (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906; (3) The China and Corea (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

Shop Hours Act, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the early closing of certain Shops in the burgh of Rutherglen [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

Locomotives on Highways Act, 1896, and Motor Car Act, 1903.—Copy presented, of Order by the Secretary for Scotland prohibiting Motor Car traffic on certain Highways in the county of Stirling [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 56

Local Taxation (Scotland).—Copy presented, of the Annual Local Taxation Returns for Scotland for the year 1904–5 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 2] 56

University of Glasgow.—Copy presented, of Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of Glasgow for 1905–6 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 3] 56

Feb. 12] Page

BUENOS AYRES.—Copy presented, of Correspondence with the Treasury respecting the raising of Buenos Ayres to the rank of a First Class Mission [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 57

TRANSVAAL.—Copy presented of Correspondence relating to legislation affecting Asiatics in the Transvaal [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 57

COOLIE LABOUR.—Supplementary Return presented, relative thereto [Address 26th March, 1906; *Mr. Nield*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 4] 57

GRENADA.—Copy presented, of Rules for the government of the Colonial Prisons [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 57

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Inquiry into Charities (County of Devon).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 26th July, 1905; *Mr. Griffith Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 5.]

Bank of England.—Accounts of Exchequer Bills and other Government Securities purchased, and Amount of Balances of Sums issued for the Payment of Dividends. etc., for the year ending 5th January, 1907 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 6.]

Lunacy.—Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of Visits made and the number of Patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 31st December, 1906 [by Act].

Supreme Court (Rules).—Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated December, 1906 [by Act].

Public Records (King's Bench (Crown Side)).—Copy of Schedule containing a list and particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the Crown Side of the late Court of King's Bench, and the present King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].

Lunacy.—Copy of Return of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses, or upon any other account, from 1st January to 31st December, 1906 [by Act] 57

TRADE AND NAVIGATION.—Return ordered, "Of accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for each month during the year 1907."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Return, in part, presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 7] 57

NOTICES OF MOTION—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

Mr. John Burns: A Bill to amend the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1903, and of a Bill to amend the law relating to valuation.

Mr. Haldane: A Bill to provide for the reorganisation of certain forces of the Crown, and for the raising and maintenance of the territorial forces.

Mr. Gladstone : A. Bill to amend the Licensing Acts, 1828 to 1896.

Mr. Lloyd-George : A Bill to amend the law relating to patients.

Sir John Walton : A Bill to amend the law respecting appeals in criminal cases 57

King's Speech.—Mr. Speaker reported His Majesty's Speech, and read it to the House.

King's Speech (Motion for an Address).

Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe) 57
Mr. Rainy (Kilmarnock Burghs) 60

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth :—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament"—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 62
The Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 78
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 89
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 104
Mr. Vivian (Birkenhead) 111
Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe) 116
Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire 121
Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland) 122
Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby) 124
Mr. Barrie (Londonderry, N.) 127
The Under Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 132
Mr. Lyttelton (St. George's, Hanover Square) 142
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 151

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 13th FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills.—The Chairman of Ways and Means reported, That, in accordance with Standing Order 79, he had conferred with the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords, for the purpose of determining in which

Feb. 13.] *Page*

House of Parliament the respective Private Bills should be first considered, and they had determined that the Bills contained in the following List should originate in the House of Lords, viz.: Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks; Barnsley, Wombwell and Wath Tramways; Birkenhead Corporation Water; Birmingham Corporation; Birmingham Corporation Water; Borax Consolidated; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water; Burnham (Somerset) Pier; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways; City of London (Union of Parishes); Colne Valley Water; Coventry Corporation Water; Devonport Corporation; Electric Supply Corporation; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas; Harrison's Patent; Heywood and Middleton Water Board; Humber Conservancy; Kendal Corporation; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation); King Edward's Hospital Fund for London; Linthwaite and Golcar Urban District Councils; Manchester Corporation Tarmways; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal); Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers); Medway Lower Navigation; Merthyr Tydvil Stipendiary Justice; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund); Middlesbrough Corporation; Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways; Midland Railway; Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation; Newquay and District Water; North British Railway (Substituted Bill); Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation; Ogmore and Garw Urban District Council (Water Supply, etc.); Oxford and District Tramways; Pontypridd Urban District Council; Portishead District Water; Royal Insurance Company; St. Neot's Urban District Council; Selsey Water and Gas; Sheffield Corporation; Society of Apothecaries of London; South Lincolnshire Water; Southend Corporation; Southend Water; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board; Staveley Coal and Iron Company; Sutton Coldfield Rectory; Tees Conservancy; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation); Tyne Improvement; Tynemouth Corporation (Water); United Methodist Church; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board; West Riding Tramways; West Yorkshire Tramways; Weston-Super-Mare Grand Pier; Wisbech Water; York and District Tramways; York (Micklegate Strays) 153

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barnsley, Neath, West Ham, and Wood Green," presented by Dr. Macnamara; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 1] 154

London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill.—"To confirm a Scheme made under The London Government Act, 1899, relating to the Southwark Borough Market," presented by Dr. Macnamara; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 2] 154

PETITIONS.

Parliamentary Franchise.—Petition from Mile End, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table 154

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Government Departments (Ireland.)—Ordered, That the Return relative to Government Departments (Ireland) which was presented on 10th December, 1906, except so much as relates to the General Post Office (Ireland), be printed. [No. 8] 154

Feb. 13.]

Page

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS).—Appropriation Accounts presented, for the year ending 31st March, 1906, together with the Reports of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon and certain Reports upon Store Accounts [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 9] 155

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.—Copy presented, of Return showing (1) Numbers and Nationalities of the Passengers that left or arrived in the United Kingdom for or from places out of Europe; and (2) The net balance of such Passengers outward or inward in each month of the year 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 155

OPTIONS AND FUTURES IN FOOD STUFFS (LEGISLATION RESPECTING).—Copy presented, of Reports from the Canadian Government and His Majesty's Representatives Abroad on Legislative Measures respecting Gambling in "Option" and "Future" Contracts as regards Food Stuffs [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 155

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN.—Account presented, of the Sums received and paid in respect of the Wages and Effects of Deceased Seamen in the year ended 31st March, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 155

RAMSGATE HARBOUR.—Copy presented, of Statement of the Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March, 1906, together with an Account of the Receipt and Issue of Stores [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 10] 155

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY INDUSTRIES).—Copy presented, of Regulations, dated 21st January, 1907, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the manufacture of Paints and Colours [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 155

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain Classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 156

PERTH PRISON.—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 22nd November, 1906; *Mr. Mitchell-Thomson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 11] 156

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.—Estimates presented, for the year 1907–8, with Explanation of Differences [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 12] 156

NAVY (STATEMENT EXPLANATORY OF ESTIMATES).—Copy presented, of Statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty explanatory of the Navy Estimates, 1907–8 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 156

BREWERS' LICENCES.—Return ordered, of "Accounts of the number of persons in each of the several Collections of the United Kingdom licensed as Brewers for sale, *i.e.*, Common Brewers, Victuallers, Retailers of beer to be drunk on the premises, Retailers of beer not to be drunk on the premises, and Brewers of beer not for sale, particularising each class in each collection; and of the number of Licences issued to Victuallers and Retailers of beer to be drunk on the premises and not to be drunk on the premises; and stating also the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, etc., sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, etc., hops and hop substitutes, used by Brewers of beer for sale, and of malt and sugar used by Brewers not for sale, from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of September, 1906."

"Of the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of September, 1906, distinguishing Brewers for sale from other Brewers."

"Of the number of Brewers for sale (i.) who use malt and hops, or hop substitutes only, and (ii.) who use malt with substitutes for same and hops or hop substitutes paying for Licences, from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of September, 1906, separating them into classes, according to the number of barrels of beer charged with duty calculated at 1·055 degrees gravity, viz.: under 1,000 barrels; 1,000 and under 10,000; 10,000 and under 20,000; 20,000 and under 30,000; 30,000 and under 50,000; 50,000 and under 100,000; 100,000 and under 150,000; 150,000 and under 200,000; 200,000 and under 250,000; 250,000 and under 300,000; 300,000 and under 350,000; 350,000 and under 400,000; 400,000 and under 450,000; 450,000 and under 500,000; 500,000 and under 600,000; 600,000 and under 700,000; 700,000 and under 800,000; 800,000 and under 900,000; 900,000 and under 1,000,000; 1,000,000 and under 1,500,000; 1,500,000 and under 2,000,000; 2,000,000 barrels and over; showing separately, in each class, the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, etc., sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, etc., hops and hop substitutes used; and stating also the number of bulk barrels of beer produced, and the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged in each class."

"And, of the number of barrels of beer exported from the United Kingdom, and the declared value thereof, and where exported to, from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of September, 1906, distinguishing England, Scotland, and Ireland (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 45, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Runciman*) 156

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (ELECTORS, ETC.), UNITED KINGDOM.—Address for "Return showing with regard to each Parliamentary Constituency in the United Kingdom the total number, and, as far as possible, the number in each class, of electors on the register now in force; and also showing the population and inhabited houses in each constituency (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 50, of Session 1905, and of Command Paper 2807, of 1906)"—(*Sir Charles Dilke*) 157

QUESTION AND ANSWER CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

CEREBRAL MENINGITIS.—Question, Sir Francis Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 158

NEW WRIT.—New writ for the Burgh of Aberdeen (South Division), in the room of the Right Hon. James Bryce (Manor of Northstead).—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 158

NEW BILL.

Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Bill.—" To enable Regulations to be made for the prevention of danger arising to public health from the importation, preparation, storage and distribution of articles of food," presented by Mr. Burns; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 3.] 158

BALLOT FOR BILLS AND MOTIONS.—Ordered, " That no Bills, other than Government Bills, be introduced in anticipation of the ballot, and that all Members who desire to ballot, whether for Bills, or for Motions for Tuesday 19th February, and Tuesday 26th February, and Wednesday 20th February and Wednesday 27th February, do hand in their names at the Table during the sitting of the House on Tuesday 12th February or Wednesday 13th February, and that a copy of such notices be handed in at the latest during the sitting of the House on Thursday 14th February."

" That the ballot for the precedence of the said Bills and Motions be taken on Thursday 14th February, at a convenient time and place, to be appointed by Mr. Speaker, and that the presentation of Bills on Friday 15th February be taken as soon after Twelve o'clock as Mr. Speaker may deem convenient."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) 158

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (KING'S SPEECH, MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS):

Ordered, " That the Proceedings on the Address in answer to His Majesty's Speech, shall, until concluded, have precedence of all others Orders of the Day, and of notices of Motions, at all sittings for which they are set down."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*) 159

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (12th February), " That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty as followeth :—

" *Most Gracious Sovereign,*

" We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 160
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 165
Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 170
The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 173
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 184
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 196
Mr. Charles Craig (Antrim, S.) 203
Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh, Central) 209
Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.) 211
Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs) 215
Mr. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars) 216
Mr. Hodge (Lancashire, Gorton) 221

Amendment proposed —

> "At the end of the Question to add the words, 'But humbly express our regret that Your Majesty's Advisers have not seen fit to include amongst the measures promised for this session one making provision for the aged poor.'"—(*Mr. Barnes.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Asquith, Fife. E.*) 222
Mr. Victor Cavendish (*Derbyshire, W.*) 227
Mr. Harold Cox (*Preston*) 227
Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 233
Mr. J. W. Wilson (*Worsestershire, N.*) 238
Mr. Brace (*Glamorganshire, S.*) 240
Mr. Chiozza Money (*Paddington, N.*) 242
Mr. T. L. Corbett (*Down, N.*) 246
Mr. Stuart (*Sunderland*) 247
Mr. Steadman (*Finsbury, Central*) 251
Mr. Everett (*Suffolk, Woodbridge*) 254
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) 255
The President of the Local Government Board (*Mr. John Burns, Battersea*) 257
Mr. Austen Chamberlain (*Worcestershire, E.*) 261
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 265

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 61 ; Noes 213. (Division List No. 1.)

Main Question again proposed.

And, it being after Eleven of the Clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

ADJOURNMENT—(THE WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn." —(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Mr. Claude Hay (*Shoreditch, Hoxton*) 270
The Secretary of State for the Home Department (*Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.*) 272
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 272

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: THURSDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Administrative County of London and District Electric Power; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railways (Additional Capital, etc.); Annfield Plain and District Gas; Armagh Urban District Council; Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks; Basingstoke Gas; Birkenhead Corporation Water; Birmingham Corporation; Birmingham Corporation Water; Borax Consolidated; Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway; Brighouse Corporation; Bristol Corporation; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water; Brockenhurst Gas; Bude Gas; Burnham (Somerset) Pier; Cardiff Railway; Central London Railway; Channel Tunnel Railway; City of London (Union of Parishes); Colne Valley Water; Coventry Corporation Water; Devonport Corporation; Electric Supply Corporation; Falmouth Gas; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways; Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions); Grays and Tilbury Gas; Great Central Railway; Great Northern and City Railway; Great Western, London and Northern Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies; Great Yarmouth Port and Haven; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas; Harrison's Patent; Heywood and Middleton Water Board; Hull and Barnsley Railway; Humber Conservancy; Kendal Corporation; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation); Keswick Urban District Council (Water); King Edward's Hospital Fund for London; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; Leeds Corporation; Leicestershire and Warwickshire Electric Power; Llandrindod Wells Gas; London County Council (Electric Supply); London County Council (General Powers); London and District Electric Power; London Electric Supply; London and North Western Railway; London and North-Western Railway (Superannuation Fund); London Port and Docks; London United Tramways; Lower Thames Tunnel Railways; Maidstone Gas; Manchester Corporation Tramways; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal); Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers); Medway Lower Navigation; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board; Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund); Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, &c.,); Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers); Middlesborough Corporation; Midland Railway; Midland Railway (West Riding lines) Abandonment; Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas; Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty; Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation; Newquay and District Water; North British Railway (Substituted Bill); North-East London Railway; North-Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply; North Staffordshire Railway; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation; Oxford and District Tramways; Penrith Urban District Council; Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment); Pontypridd Urban District Council; Port Talbot Railway and Docks; Portishead District Water; Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply; Royal Insurance Company; St. Neot's Urban District Council; Selsey Water and Gas; Shanklin Gas; Sheffield Corporation; Society of Apothecaries of London; South Lincolnshire Water; South Wales Mineral Railway; Southend

Feb. 14.] *Page*

Corporation; Southend Water; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board; Staveley Coal and Iron Company; Sunderland Corporation; Sutton Coldfield Rectory; Swansea Harbour; Taff Vale Railway; Tees Conservancy; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation); Tyne Improvement; Tynemouth Corporation (Water); United Methodist Church; Watford and Edgware Railway; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board; West Riding Tramways; West Yorkshire Tramways; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier; Wisbech Water; Worthing Gas; York (Micklegate Strays).

Also the certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with :—Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers); Barry Railway; Boston Spa Gas; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways; Rawtenstall Corporation; South Eastern and London, Chatham and Dover, Railways; York and District Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table 273

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRANSVAAL.—Correspondence relating to legislation affecting Asiatics in the Transvaal 275

NAVY ESTIMATES, (1907–1908).—Estimates, with explantion of differences; Statement of First Lord of the Admiralty explanatory of the Navy Estimates 275

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN.—Account of the sums received and paid in respect of the wages and effects of deceased seamen in the year ended 31st March, 1906.

Presented by Command and ordered to lie on the Table 275

GRENADA.—Rules for the Government of the Colonial Prisons 275

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (DANGEROUS AND UNHEATLHY INDUSTRIES).—Regulations, dated 21st January, 1907, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the manufacture of paints and colours 275

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WOOLWICH).—Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough 275

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).—Account of receipts and payments for each financial year from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1906 276

RAMSGATE HARBOUR.—Statement of the receipts and payments made by the Board of Trade for the year ended 31st March, 1906, together with an account of the receipt and issue of stores.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 276

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 276
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 276

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: THURSDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS].—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in respect of the Bills comprised in the List reported by the Chairman of Ways and Means as intended to originate in the House of Lords, they have certified that the Standing Orders have been complied with in the following cases, viz. :—

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks; Birkenhead Corporation Water; Birmingham Corporation; Birmingham Corporation Water; Borax Consolidated; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water; Burnham (Somerset) Pier; City of London (Union of Parishes); Colne Valley Water; Coventry Corporation Water; Devonport Corporation; Electric Supply Corporation; Folkestone, Sandgate and Hythe Tramways; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas; Harrison's Patent; Heywood and Middleton Water Board; Humber Conservancy; Kendal Corporation; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation); King Edward's Hospital Fund for London; Manchester Corporation Tramways; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal); Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers); Medway Lower Navigation; Merthyr Tydvil Stipendiary Justice; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund); Middlesbrough Corporation; Midland Railway; Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation; Newquay and District Water; North British Railway (Substituted Bill); Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation; Oxford and District Tramways; Pontypridd Urban District Council; Portishead District Water; Royal Insurance Company; St. Neot's Urban District Council; Selsey Water and Gas; Sheffield Corporation; Society of Apothecaries of London; South Lincolnshire Water; Southend Corporation; Southend Water; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board; Staveley Coal and Iron Company; Sutton Coldfield Rectory; Tees Conservancy; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation); Tyne Improvement; Tynemouth Corporation (Water); United Methodist Church; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board; West Riding Tramways; West Yorkshire Tramways; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier; Wisbech Water; York (Micklegate Strays).

And they have certified that the Standing Orders have not been complied with in the following cases, viz. :—Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways; York and District Tramways 277

Feb. 14.]

Page

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH). Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petitions for the following Bills, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz. :—Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways [Lords]; York and District Tramways [Lords].

Ordered, "That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders" 278

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers on the Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 278

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.) Bill, "to empower the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company to raise additional capital for the construction and completion of the dock extension and other works in connection therewith, authorised by the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Acts, 1904 and 1906, and for the general purposes of their undertaking," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 278

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers on the Annfield Plain and District Gas Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 279

Armagh Urban District Council Bill, "for empowering the Urban District Council of Armagh to acquire the undertaking of the Armayh Toll Committee; for extinguishing the Council's liability to pay an annual road contribution to the Armagh County Council; for making further provision for the health and improvement of the district; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 279

Basingstoke Gas Bill, "for conferring further powers upon the Basingstoke Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 279

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill, "to authorise the Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Company to construct a new railway, to acquire additional loans and to raise further money; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 279

Brighouse Corporation Bill, "to confer further powers upon the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Brighouse in regard to their electricity undertaking, and to make further provision in regard to the health, local government, and improvement of the borough; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 279

Bristol Corporation Bill, "to empower the Lord Mayor, aldermen and burgesses of the city of Bristol to raise further moneys for completion of authorised dock works; to make provision with respect to tonnage dues; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 279

Page

Brockenhurst Gas Bill.—" To incorporate the Brockenhurst Gas Company and to enable that Company to supply with gas the parish of Brockenhurst, in the county of Southampton," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 280

Bude Gas Bill.—" For incorporating and conferring powers upon the Bude Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.. 280

Cardiff Railway Bill.—" To amend the powers of the Cardiff Railway Company with respect to the levying of rates upon steam vessels using the docks of the Company at Cardiff; and to make provisions as to pilotage rates," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 280

Central London Railway Bill.—" To confer further powers on the Central London Railway Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills .. 280

Channel Tunnel Railway Bill.—" For incorporating the Channel Tunnel Railway Company and empowering them to construct railways and other works in the county of Kent and the foreshore and bed of the English Channel; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 280

Falmouth Gas Bill.—" For conferring further powers upon the Falmouth Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 280

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill.—" To remove the restrictions in respect of sulphur compounds (other than Sulphuretted Hydrogen) now imposed upon certain gas companies," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 280

Grays and Tilbury Gas Bill.—" For incorporating and conferring powers on the Grays and Tilbury Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 280

Great Central Railway Bill.—" To authorise the construction of new works and taking of lands by the Great Central Railway Company; to sanction and confirm agreements between the Great Central Railway Company and the Blyton and Frodingham and North Lindsey Light Railway Companies and to authorise the construction of new railways and a pier in the county of Lincoln by the Great Central Railway Company and the North Lindsey Light Railway Company; to authorise the construction of new works and the taking of lands for the Sheffield District Railway; to authorise the construction of new railways by the Great Central Railway Company and the Great Northern Railway Company for the purposes of the West Riding and Grimsby Railways; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 281

Great Northern and City Railway Bill.—" To revive and extend the powers for the purchase of lands and to extend the time limited for the completion of the railway and works authorised by The Great Northern and City Railway Act, 1902; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 281

Feb. 14.]

Page

Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill.—" To enable the Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies to construct certain railways in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth ; and to enable the Great Western Railway Company in connection with such railways to construct new railways and a deviation of their Monmouthshire (Western Valleys) Railway ; to authorise the appointment of a Joint Committee ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 281

Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Bill.—" To amend the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Acts of 1886 and 1900, to confer further powers upon the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and ordered to be read a second time .. 281

Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill.—" To authorise the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company to construct a pier and railways at Hull, and to purchase additional lands ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 282

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill.—" To define and sanction the existing water undertaking of the Urban District Council of Keswick, in the county of Cumberland ; to authorise the construction of new works ; to define the limits for the supply of water ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and ordered to be read a second time 282

King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill.—" To confer further powers upon the Urban District Council of King's Norton and Northfield with respect to tramways, electric lighting, and main roads, and to make further and better provision for the good government of the said district ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and ordered to be read a second time 282

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill.—" To authorise the Corporation of Kingston-upon-Hull to acquire the undertaking of the East Hull Gas Company, and to empower them to construct a tramway and to make further provision in regard to the local government and improvement of the city ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and ordered to be read a second time 282

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill.—" To authorise the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to construct new railways ; to widen certain existing railways and to construct other works ; to acquire additional lands and to raise additional capital ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills .. 282

Leeds Corporation Bill.—" To empower the Corporation of Leeds to construct additional waterworks and works for sewage purposes, and to acquire lands ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and ordered to be read a second time 282

Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill.—" For incorporating and conferring powers on the Llandrindod Wells Gas Company ; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time ; and ordered to be read a second time 283

Feb. 14.] *Page*

London and North Western Railway Bill.—" For conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own undertaking and upon that Company in conjunction with the Great Western Railway Company in relation to their joint undertaking; for enabling the Company to work their railways by electrical power; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 283

London and North Western Railway (Superannuation) Fund Bill.—" To amend the provisions of the London and North Western Railway Act, 1854, with respect to superannuation fund," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 283

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill.—" To confer powers on the London County Council with respect to the supply of electrical energy in the administrative county of London and neighbouring areas; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 283

London County Council (General Powers) Bill.—" To empower the London County Council to execute works and acquire lands; to make provisions for the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the county of London; to confer powers upon the council of the metropolitan borough of Camberwell; and for other purposes," presented and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 283

London Electric Supply Bill.—"To make further provisions with respect to the supply of electrical energy in London and surrounding districts; for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 283

London Port and Docks Bill.—" To impose rates on goods imported into the Port of London; and to make provision for the improvement of the dock accommodation at, and the navigation of, the said port; and for other purposes," presented and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 283

London United Tramways Bill.—" To empower the London United Tramways (1901), Limited, to construct a subway for foot passengers in the metropolitan borough of Hammersmith; and for the extension of the time limited by the London United Tramways Act, 1901, the London United Tramways Act, 1902, and the London United Tramways Act, 1904, for the construction of tramways and the acquisition of lands," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 284

Lower Thames Tunnel Railways Bill.—" To incorporate the Lower Thames Tunnel Railway Company, and authorise that Company to construct railways connecting the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway with the South Eastern Railway by means of a tunnel under the River Thames; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 284

Maidstone Gas Bill.—" For extending the limits of supply of the Maidstone Gas Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 284

Feb. 14.] *Page*

Mersey Docks and Harbour Bill.—"To amend the powers of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board with respect to the levying of rates; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 284

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill.—"To provide for uniform scales of charges for water applicable throughout the limits of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 284

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill.—"To empower the Metropolitan Water Board to make waterworks and other works and to acquire lands; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 284

Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Bill.—"To authorise he Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Light Company to construct new works; to raise additional capital; to convert their existing capital; and for other purposes," presented and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 284

Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill.—"To revive and extend the period limited by the Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Acts, 1903 and 1904, for the compulsory purchase of lands and to extend the period limited by those Acts for the construction of the railways and works by those Acts authorised; to authorise the County Councils of the counties of Westmeath and Meath, and the corporation of Drogheda, to grant guarantees in respect of the capital of the Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Company; to make provision as to the purchase of the undertaking of the Company by the said County Councils and corporation and the appointment and powers of a Joint Committee; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 285

Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway Bill.—"To extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands for and for the construction of the Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 285

North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways Bill.—"For enabling the North Eastern Railway Company and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to construct railways in the West Riding of the County of York; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 285

North-East London Railway Bill.—"For conferring further powers upon the North-East London Railway Company with respect to their undertaking, for authorising agreements with the Great Eastern, the North London, the London and South Western, the Midland, the City and South London, the Central London, the Metropolitan District, and the Metropolitan Railway Companies; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 285

Feb. 14.] *Page*

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill.—" To confer further powers upon the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 286

North Staffordshire Railway Bill.—" To confer further powers upon the North Staffordshire Railway Company, to confirm an agreement for the purchase by that company of the railway of the Cheadle Railway Company, Limited; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 286

Penrith Urban District Council Bill.—' To authorise the Urban District Council of Penrith to construct additional waterworks, to extend the limits of the council for the supply of gas, to enlarge the powers of the Council in regard to the supply of water and gas, to confer further powers on the Council in regard to markets and fairs and for the utilisation of lands allotted under an enclosure award, and to make further and better provision with regard to the improvement, health, local government, and finance of the district; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 286

Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill.—"For the abandonment of the Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 286

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill.—" To confer further powers upon the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 286

Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill.—" To confirm an agreement relating to the supply of electricity in the borough of Richmond (Surrey); and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 286

Shanklin Gas Bill.—" For incorporating and conferring powers on the Shanklin Gas Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 286

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill.—" To empower the South Wales Mineral Railway Company to construct a deviation railway; to abandon part of their existing railway; to raise further money; to enter into working agreements with the Great Western, the Rhondda and Swansea Bay, and the Taff Vale Railway Companies, and the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company; to enable those companies to subscribe for shares or stock; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 287

Sunderland Corporation Bill.—" To make further provision in regard to the burial grounds for the borough of Sunderland and the parishes of Bishopwearmouth Without and Fulwell, in the county of Durham, and in regard to the electricity undertaking of the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of that borough, and the health, local government, and improvement of the borough; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 287

Feb. 14.] *Page.*

Swansea Harbour Bill.—"To authorise the Swansea Harbour Trustees to further extend the West Pier of Swansea Harbour, and to construct a breakwater on the eastern side of the entrance channel of the said harbour; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time 287

Taff Vale Railway Bill.—"To confer further powers on the Taff Vale Railway Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 287

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill.—"To confer further powers on the Watford and Edgware Railway Company, to extend the time limited by The Edgware and Hampstead Railway Act, 1905, and The Watford and Edgware Railway Act, 1906, for the purchase of certain lands, to authorise certain works, to authorise agreements between the Watford and Edgware Railway Company and other companies; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 287

Worthing Gas Bill.—"To confer further powers upon the Worthing Gas Light and Coke Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills 288

Marriages Provisional Order Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order made by one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under The Provisional Order (Marriages) Act, 1905," presented by Mr. Herbert Samuel; supported by Mr. Secretary Gladstone; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 4.] 288

PETITIONS.

Parliamentary Franchise.—Petitions for Extension to women; from Ramsgate; and South Kensington; to lie upon the Table 288

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors on Sunday.—Petition from Aston Manor, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table 288

Varathanunthajee, Prince Vijiga.—Petition of Prince Vijiga Varathanunthajee, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table 288

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Civil Services and Revenue Departments (Supplementary Estimates; 1906–7).—Estimate presented, of the further sums required to be voted for the Service of the year ending 31st March, 1907 (by Command); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 13.) 288

Brewers' Licences.—Return presented, relative thereto ordered 13th February; [*Mr. Runciman*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 14.) .. 288

Local Taxation (Ireland) Account.—Copy presented, of Account of Receipts and Payments for each financial year from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1906 (by Act); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 15.) 289

Post Office (Inland) Post.—Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 9) Warrant, 1907, dated 21st January, 1907 (by Act); to lie upon the Table 289

Feb. 14.] *Page*

POST OFFICE (MONEY) ORDERS.—Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated 21st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 289

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

SELANGOR MAHOMMEDAN MOSQUE.—Question, Mr. Massie (Wiltshire, Cricklade); Answer, Mr. Churchill 289

UGANDA RAILWAY—BEER AND SPIRIT FREIGHTAGE.—Question, Mr. Armitage (Leeds, Central); Answer, Mr. Churchill 289

STEAMERS ON LAKE VICTORIA.—Question, Mr. Armitage; Answer, Mr. Churchill 290

EAST AFRICA—TRADE IN ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.—Question, Mr. Armitage; Answer, Mr. Churchill 290

BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. John Burns 290

CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—Question, Sir Francis Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 291

IRISH CATTLE INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 292

GAMBLING IN OPTIONS AND FUTURES.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 292

JUDICIAL ETIQUETTE.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 292

GANGES BRIDGE COMMITTEE.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 293

HAMBURG-AMERICAN STEAMERS IN PERSIAN GULF.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 293

FREE PRIMARY EDUCATION IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley 294

TRAVELLERS AND TIBET.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley 294

COST OF HOUSE ACCOMMODATION AT POONA.—Question, Sir Seymour King; Answer, Mr. Morley 295

INDIAN MILITARY SERVICE PENSION FUND.—Question, Sir Seymour King; Answer, Mr. Morley 295

BOAT CLUB HOUSES ON THE LIFFEY.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Runciman 296

MIDLETON FAIR RENT APPLICATIONS.—Question, Captain Donelan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 296

ROMAN CATHOLIC ARCHBISHOP AT MALTA.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Haldane 297

SALISBURY PLAIN—CIVILIANS BUILDING ON GOVERNMENT LAND.—Question Captain Faber (Hampshire, Andover); Answer, Mr. Haldane 297

Feb. 14.] Page

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE NAVY—THE WEST INDIES.—Questions, Mr. Rendall (Gloucestershire, Thornbury) and Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 298

VOLUNTEER OFFICERS' LIABILITIES.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) .. 299

WOOLWICH EXPLOSION.—Question, Mr. Crooks (Woolwich); Answer, Mr. Haldane 299

ARMY (ANNUAL) BILL.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Haldane 300

CHINESE COOLIES IN TRANSVAAL.—Questions, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Henley) and Mr. Carlile (Hertfordshire, St. Albans); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 300

TRANSAIL REVENUE AND GOLD OUTPUT.—Question, Mr. Morrell; Answer, Mr. Churchill 301

UNEMPLOYED AUSTRALIANS IN SOUTH AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury) and Mr. Fiennes (Oxfordshire, Banbury); Answers, Mr. Churchill 302

REPATRIATION OF CHINESE COOLIES.—Question, Mr. Verney (Buckinghamshire, N.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 303

REPATRIATION DELAYS—Question, Mr. Mackarness; Answer, Mr. Churchill 303

CHINESE COOLIE CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Belloc (Salford, S.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 304

LABOUR RECRUITING IN PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.—Questions, Mr. Belloc and Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answers, Mr. Churchill 304

NEW MINE DRILL FOR THE RAND.—Question, Mr. Mackarness; Answer, Mr. Churchill 305

LAGOS FLOGGING CASE.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Churchill 305

CHINESE OPIUM TAXES.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 306

INDIAN OPIUM IN CHINA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley 307

CHINESE OPIUM STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 307

POLICEMAN'S DAY OF REST.—Question, Mr. Robinson (Brecknock); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 307

ALIENS ACT—COST OF ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 308

Feb. 14.] *Page*

THEFT BY AUXILIARY POSTMEN.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, The Postmaster General (Mr. Sydney Buxton) 309

UNDERGROUND TELEGRAPH WIRE TO ABERDEEN.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 309

AMERICAN GOOSEBERRY MILDEW.—Question, Mr. Beck (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 309

SWANSEA EDUCATION DISPUTE.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 310

HOLYROOD CHAPEL ROYAL.—Question, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 310

IRISH NATIONAL SCHOOL TEACHERS AND UNIVERSITY DEGREES.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 311

IRISH EDUCATION GRANT.—Question, Captain Craig; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 311

COST OF TEACHING THE IRISH LANGUAGE.—Question, Captain Craig; Answers, Mr. Birrell 311

WEST OF IRELAND POTATO CROP.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Birrell 312

REENARD PIER.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 313

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 313

NORTH OF IRELAND ENGINEERING STAFF.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 313

QUEENSTOWN AND THE AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE.—Questions, Captain Donelan; Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 314

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.—Questions, Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) and Mr. Markham, (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield) Answers, Mr. Speaker 315

NEW MEMBER SWORN.—William Edwin Harvey, Esquire, for the County of Derby (North Eastern Division) 317

NEW BILLS.

Post Office Sites Bill.—"To enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London, Chester, Bournemouth, Eastbourne, and New Southgate for the public service; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. Sidney Buxton; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 5] 317

Telegraph (Construction) Bill.—"To amend the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906, with respect to the construction and maintenance of Telegraphic Lines," presented by Mr. Sydney Buxton; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd February, and to be printed. [Bill 6.] 317

Feb. 14.] *Page*

Butter and Margarine Bill.—" To make further provision with respect to the manufacture, importation and sale of Butter and Margarine and similar substances," presentd by Sir Edward Strachey; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 7.] 317

NEW WRIT (BOROUGH OF WORCESTER).—Motion made, and Question proposed, " That Mr. Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a New Writ for the electing of a Member to serve in this present Parliament for the Borough of Worcester, in the room of George Henry Williamson, Esq., whose election has been declared to be void."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

The Attorney-General (*Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.*) 318
Mr. Hemmerde (*Denbighshire, E.*) 320
Mr. Theodore Taylor (*Lancashire, Radcliffe*) 322
Lord R. Cecil (*Marylebone, E.*) 323
Sir C. Hill (*Shrewsbury*) 323
Mr. R. Duncan (*Lanarkshire, Govan*) 324
Mr. Stanley Wilson (*Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness*) 324
The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) 324

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 190; Noes, 192. (Division List No. 2.)

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Order read for resuming Adjourned Debate on Main Question [12th February]

" That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth—

" *Most Gracious Sovereign,*

" We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

Mr. Hayden (*Roscommon, S.*) 329
Mr. Hugh Law (*Donegal, W.*) 337

Amendment proposed—

" At the end of the Question to add the words 'And we humbly represent to your Majesty that the promises made and the expectations held out in the year 1903 by Your Majesty's then Government to tenants evicted from their holdings in Ireland during the agrarian troubles in that country have not been fulfilled; that numbers of these unhappy families are still homeless and suffering extreme distress; that this condition of things has given rise to an increasing feeling of bitterness and disappointment; that it is discreditable to English rule in Ireland and dangerous to the public peace, and demands the immediate attention of the Government with a view to applying a speedy and effectual remedy, by conferring on the Estates Commissioners such powers as will make it possible for them to reinstate the evicted tenants wihtout further delay.' "—(*Mr. Hayden.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.) 341
Mr. Gooch (Bath) 352
Mr. O'Shee (Waterford, W.) 354
Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.) 359
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 364
Mr. John Redmond (Waterford) 371
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 371
Mr. Nolan (Louth, S.) 373

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. J. F. Mason (Windsor) 374
Mr. Abel Smith (Hertfordshire, Hertford) 379

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question to add the words 'but humbly to represent to Your Majesty that the interests of agriculture are suffering from the neglect of Your Majesty's Ministers materially to encourage scientific agricultural research.' "—(*Mr. James Mason.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Sir Francis Channing (Northamptonshire, E.) 380
Viscount Helmsley (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) 383
Mr. Verney (Buckinghamshire, N.) 384
Mr. Carlile (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) 386
Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 388
Mr. Victor Cavendish (Derbyshire, W.) 391
Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) 392
Mr. Barnard (Kidderminster) 393
Mr. Helme (Lancashire, Lancaster) 394
Mr. Meysey-Thompson (Staffordshire, Handsworth) 395
Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs) 396
Colonel Williams (Dorsetshire, W.) 398
Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye) 398
Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe) 399

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Lupton (Lancashire, Sleaford) 401
Mr. Lehman (Leicestershire, Market Harborough) 410

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question to add the words 'but humbly regret that His Majesty's gracious Speech does not include proposals for repealing the penal clauses of the Vaccination Act.' "—(*Mr. Lupton.*)

The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 411
Mr. Cave (Surrey, Kingston) 412

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

Feb. 15.] Page

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petitions for the following Bills, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers); Barry Railway; Boston Spa Gas; Rawtenstall Corporation; South Eastern, and London, Chatham Chatham and Dover Railways.

Ordered, that the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders 413

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petitions in favour; from Braintree; Burgess Hill; Danehill (two); East Grinstead; Horsted Keynes (two); Kelvedon; Totteridge; and Uckfield; to lie upon the Table 413

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).—Copy ordered, "of Statements for each month of the year 1907 of the number of paupers relieved in England and Wales (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 69, of Session, 1906)."—(*Dr. Macnamara*) 413

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.—Copy presented, of Report of Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the London County Council Generating Station at Greenwich in its relation to the Royal Observatory [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 413

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.—Accounts presented, for the year ended 31st March, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 16] 414

WARLIKE OPERATIONS (KILLED AND WOUNDED).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 27th May, 1906; *Mr. Morton*]; to lie upon the Table .. 414

NEW SOUTH WALES.—Copy presented, of the Parliamentary Elections Act, 1906 (No. 41) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 17] .. 414

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

HOUSING OF OFFICIALS OF THE UGANDA RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Armitage (Leeds, Central); Answer, Mr. Churchill 414

RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF WORKING.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 414

IRISH INSPECTORS AND SCHOOL PROGRAMMES.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 415

Delay in the Inspection of the Marshall Estate, County Kerry.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Birrell 416

Adjournment.—Resolved, That the House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till Monday next.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 416

Post Office Sites Bill.—Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Post Office Sites Bill, with respect to compliance with Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton*) 416

NEW BILLS.

Women's Enfranchisement Bill.—"To enable Women to vote at Parliamentary Elections," presented by Mr. Dickinson; supported by Mr. James Stuart, Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Howard, Mr. Hart-Davies, and Mr. Snowden; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th March, and to be printed. [Bill 8.] 416

Railways (Contracts) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Railway and Canal Companies' Rates and Conditions of Conveyance," presented by Mr. Lambton; supported by Mr. Hooper, Sir William Holland, Mr. Abel Smith, Sir Francis Channing, Lord Helmsley, Mr. J. W. Wilson, and Mr. Hyde; to be read a second time upon Friday, 15th March, and to be printed. [Bill 9] 417

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister," presented by Sir Brampton Gurdon; supported by Mr. Burt, Sir Joseph Leese, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. MacIver, Sir John Jardine, Mr. Hambro, Sir A. M. Torrance, Mr. Barker, Mr. Eugene Wason, and Mr. Acland; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 10] 417

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill.—"To render compulsory the use of the System of Weights and Measures commonly known as the Metric System," presented by Mr. B. S. Straus; supported by Sir Henry Norman, Mr. Bonar Law, Sir Charles M'Laren, Sir John Brunner, Sir Christopher Furness, Sir William Holland, Mr. Wolff, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Fenwick, and Mr. Vivian; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 11] 417

Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Land Law (Ireland) Acts," presented by Mr. Hogan; supported by Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Clancy, Captain Donelan, Mr. John Roche, Mr. Kendal O'Brien, and Mr. Vincent Kennedy; to be read a second time upon Friday, 19th April, and to be printed. [Bill 12] 417

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill.—"To limit the Hours of Work below ground in Coal Mines," presented by Mr. Walsh; supported by Mr. Glover, Sir Alfred Jacoby, Mr. Enoch Edwards, Mr. William Abraham (Rhondda), Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Joseph Walton, Mr. Hall, Sir Henry Norman, Mr. Yoxall, Mr. John Hope, and Mr. Howell Davies; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 13] 417

Fed. 15.] Page

Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill.—" To enable School Boards in Scotland to provide Meals for necessitous school children," presented by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald; supported by Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Tyson Wilson, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Bill, Mr. Thorne, Mr. M'Crae, and Mr. Halley Stewart; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 14] 418

Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) Bill.—" To give the ratepayers a direct control of the Liquor Traffic in their respective areas in Scotland; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. Robert Balfour; to be read a second time upon Friday, 26th April, and to be printed. [Bill 15] 418

Compulsory Weighing and Measurements Bill.—" To provide for the Weighing and Measurement of the Material used in the process of Manufacture as well as the product thereof in all iron or steel works, cement works, lime works, and chalk quarries," presented by Mr. G. H. Roberts; supported by Mr. Hodge, Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Thorne, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Glover, Mr. Parker, Mr. John Taylor, and Mr. Wardle; to be read a second time upon Friday, 3rd May, and to be printed. [Bill 16] 418

Old Age Pensions Bill.—" To provide Pensions for aged persons," presented by Mr. W. H. Lever; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Mr. Burt, Mr. John Wilson, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Clark, Mr. Walter Rea, Mr. Tyson Wilson, Mr. Billson, Mr. Murray Macdonald, Mr. Bill, and Mr. Vivian; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 17] 418

Small Holdings Bill.—" To further facilitate the provision of Small Holdings in England and Wales," presented by Mr. George Hardy; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Mr. Lynch, Mr. George White, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Levy Lever, Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. Vickerman Rutherford, Mr. Essex, Mr. Rowlands, and Mr. Stephen Collins; to be read a second time upon Friday, 17th May, and to be printed. [Bill 18] 418

Lights on Vehicles Bill.—" To render compulsory the carrying of Lights by Vehicles at night" presented by Major Renton; supported by Mr. Courthope, Mr. Fiennes, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Abel Smith, and Mr. Tomkinson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 15th March, and to be printed. [Bill 19.] 419

Wages Board Bill.—" To provide for the establishment of Wages Boards," presented by mr. Ernest Lamb; supported by Mr. Alden, Mr. Barnes, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Gill, Dr. Hazel, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Money, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Tennant and Mr. Whitwell Wilson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 20] .. 419

Intestate Husband's Estate (Scotland) Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to the share of Intestate Husband's Estate, falling to the widow in Scotland," presented by Mr. Crombie; supported by Mr. Gulland, Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Dundas White, Mr. Younger, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Friday, 3rd May, and to be printed. [Bill 21] 419

Education Acts Amendment Bill.—" To make provision for vacation schools, and for the medical inspection and treatment of school children," presented by Mr. Walter Rea ; supported by Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Frederick Edwin Smith, Mr. Tomkinson, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Guest ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 22] .. 419

Resident Magistrates (Belfast) Bill.—" To make provisions for the appointment and remuneration of Resident Magistrates in Belfast," presented by Mr. Wolff ; supported by Sir Daniel Dixon and Mr. Sloan ; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 23.] 419

Coal Mines Regulation Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Coal Mines," presented by Mr. Wadsworth ; supported by Mr. William Abraham (Rhondda), Mr. Enoch Edwards, Mr. Harvey, Sir Joseph Leese, Mr. Brace, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. James Haslam, Mr. Glover, Sir Alfred Jacoby, and Mr. William Johnson ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 24] 420

Ecclesiastical Disorders Bill.—" To provide for the suppression of Ecclesiastical Disorders," presented by Sir George Kekewich ; supported by Mr. Charles Corbett, Mr. Glendinning, Dr. Hazel, Mr. Thomas Frederick Richards, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. Watson, Rutherford, Mr. Seaverns, Mr. Seddon, Mr. Sloan, and Mr. Luke White ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 25] 420

Dublin Metropolitan Police Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to the Dublin Metropolitan Police," presented by Mr. Harrington ; supported by Mr. Field, Mr. Nannetti, and Mr. Waldron ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th March, and to be printed. [Bill 26] 420

Sweated Industries Bill.—" To improve the conditions of employment, including the establishment of a legal minimum wage, of persons employed in certain industries," presented by Mr. Arthur Henderson ; supported by Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Barnes, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Wardle, and Mr. Thorne ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 27] 420

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill.—" To amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881," presented by Mr. Herbert Roberts ; supported by Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Ellis Davies ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 28] 420

Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill.—" To enable the inhabitants of localities by a direct vote to prevent the issue of licences for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors," presented by Mr. Leif Jones ; supported by Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Crossley, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Sir Francis Channing, Mr. George White, and Mr. Nicholls ; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 29] 420

Coroners' Inquests (Railway, etc., Fatalities) Bill.—" To amend the Law as to Coroners' Inquests in the case of Fatal Accidents on Railways and for other purposes," presented by Sir Francis Channing ; supported by Mr. Bell, Sir Charles Schwann, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Charles Nicholson, and Mr. Tomkinson ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 30] 421

Feb. 15] *Page*

Irish Tobacco Bill.—" To repeal the Law which prohibits the growing of Tobacco in Ireand," presented by Mr. William Redmond ; supported by Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Vincent Kennedy, and Mr. John O'Connor ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 31] 421

Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Bill.—" To amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Acts" presented by Mr. Fetherstonhaugh ; supported by Mr. Jordan, Mr. Sloan, and Mr. Thomas Corbett ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 32] 421

Merchandise Marks Bill.—" To amend the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887," presented by Sir Howard Vincent ; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 33] 421

Probation of First Offenders Bill.—" To amend the Probation of First Offenders Act, 1887, and to authorise the appointment of Probation Officers," presented by Sir Howard Vincent ; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 34] 421

Political Pensions Bill.—" To repeal the Political Offices Pension Act, 1869," presented by Sir Howard Vincent ; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 35] 421

Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill.—" To amend the Police (Scotland) Act, 1890," presented by Mr. McCrae ; supported by Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Charles Price and Mr. Dundas White ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 19th April, and to be printed. [Bill 36] 422

Aged Pensioners Bill.—" To provide Pensions for the Aged Deserving Poor," presented by Mr. Samuel Roberts ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 37] 422

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to the Sale of Intoxicaing Liquors in Ireland on Saturdays and Sundays ; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. Sloan ; supported by Mr. Gordon, Mr. Glendinning, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and Mr. Thomas Frederick Richards ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 26th April, and to be printed. [Bill 38] 422

Irish Land Bill.—" To amend the Irish Land Acts," presented by Mr. T. W. Russell ; supported by Mr. Glendinning ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 19th April, and to be printed. [Bill 39] 422

Licensed Premises Election Days Closing Bill.—" To secure the Closing of Licensed Premises on certain Election Days," presented by Mr. Charles Roberts ; supported by Colonel Herbert, Mr. T. W. Russell, Major Renton, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Whitwell Wilson, and Mr. Billson ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 15th March, and to be printed. [Bill 40] 422

Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill.—" To grant Certificates to Persons in Charge of Engines and Boilers in and about Mines," presented by Mr. John Taylor ; supported by Mr. John Wilson, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Bell, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Enoch Edwards, Sir Alfred Jacoby, Mr. Walton, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Summerbell, and Mr. Compton Rickett ; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 41] .. 422

Shops Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Shops," presented by Sir Charles Dilke ; supported by Mr. Bowerman, Mr. Timothy Davies, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. McCrae, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Alfred Scott, Mr. Seddon, and Mr. Tennant ; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 42] 423

Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill.—" To establish a single Franchise at all Elections, and thereby to abolish University representation and to remove the Disabilities of Women," presented by Sir Charles Dilke ; supported by Mr. Bell, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Byles, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Hodge, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Chiozza Money, Mr. Robert Pearce, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Sheehan, and Mr. Whitwell Wilson ; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th March, and to be printed. [Bill 43] 423

A Question of Privilege.

Mr. Rees (*Montgomery Boroughs*) 423

King's Speech (Motion for an Address).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [14th February] to Main Question [12th February], " That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth—

" *Most Gracious Sovereign,*

" We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Which Amendment was—

" At the end of the Question, to add the words, ' But humbly regret that His Majesty's gracious Speech does not include proposals for repealing the penal clauses of the Vaccination Act.' "—(*Mr. Lupton*).

Question again proposed, " That those words be there added."

Mr. Cave (*Surrey, Kingston*) 424
Sir W. J. Collins (*St. Pancras, W.*) 429
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin, S.*) 436
Sir Walter Foster (*Derbyshire, Ilkeston*) 439
Mr. Eugene Wason (*Clackmannan and Kinross*) 443
The Secretary for Scotland (*Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire*) 443
Mr. T. F. Richards (*Wolverhampton, W.*) 444
Mr. Jesse Collings (*Birmingham, Bordesley*) 445
The Secretary to the Local Government Board (*Dr. Macnamara, Camberwell, N.*) 448
Mr. Munro Ferguson (*Leith Burghs*) 451
Mr. Smeaton (*Stirlingshire*) 452
Mr. Pickersgill (*Bethnal Green, S.W.*) 452

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Harold Cox (*Preston*) 453
Mr. Hart Davies (*Hackney, N.*) 463

Feb. 15.] Page

Amendment proposed—

"At end to add, 'And we humbly submit to Your Majesty that, in accordance with the precedent of 1902, it is desirable that the first question to be laid before the delegates from Your Majesty's Colonies at the coming Colonial Conference should be the importance of the fuller participation by the Colonies in the cost of defending Your Majesty's Dominions.'"—(*Mr. Harold Cox.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 464
Mr. Churchill (*Manchester, N.W.*) 469
Mr. Russell Rea (*Gloucester*) 476
Mr. Wiliam Redmond (*Clare, E.*) 483
Mr. Boulton (*Huntingdonshire, Ramsey*) 487
Mr. Cathcart Wason (*Orkney and Shetland*) 490
Sir Gilbert Parker (*Gravesend*) 490

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

Motion made and Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Earl Percy*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at one minute before Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Galwey's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Charles Edward Galwey, a captain in the Royal Irish Regiment, with Annie Louise Galwey, his now wife, and to enable him to marry again; and for other purposes. Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in and of the decree of divorce of the King's Bench, Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland delivered (on oath); Bill read 1ª; and to be read 2ª on Monday, 4th March next. The usual Orders made 493

Fitz Gerald's Divorce Bill [H.L.]—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Lida Eleanor Purcell Fitz Gerald with Gerald Purcell Fitz Gerald her present husband, and to enable her to marry again; and for other purposes. Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in and of the decree of divorce of the King's Bench, Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland delivered (on oath); Bill read 1ª; and to be read 2ª on Monday, 4th March next. The usual Orders made 493

BAINES' NAME.—Petition of Raymond Hill Baines, of 54, Cromwell Road, Hove, in the county of Sussex, praying for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise Raymond Hill Baines to assume and bear the Christian names of Henry Rodd in lieu of the Christian names of Raymond Hill; together with a copy of the proposed Bill annexed thereto; read and referred to the Examiners 493

Feb. 18.] *Page*

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [H.L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill [H.L.]; City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.]; Coventry Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Devonport Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Harrison's Patent Bill [H.L.]; Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Humber Conservancy Bill [H.L.]; Kendal Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.]; King Edward's Hospital Fund for London Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice Bill [H.L.]; Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; St. Neot's Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Selsey Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.]; Southend-on-Sea Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Sutton Coldfield Rectory Bill [H.L.]; Tees Conservancy Bill [H.L.]; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill [H.L.]; Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.]; United Methodist Church Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]; York and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; York (Micklegate Strays) Bill [H.L.].—Presented, and read 1ª 493

Borax Consolidated Bill [H.L.]; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Colne Valley Water Bill [H.L.]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.]; Medway Lower Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment Bill [H.L.]; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [H.L.]; Newquay and District Water Bill [H.L.]; North British Railway Bill [H.L.]; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Oxford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Portishead District Water Bill [H.L.]; Royal Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; South Lincolnshire Water Bill [H.L.]; Southend Water Bill [H.L.]; Staveley Coal and Iron Company Bill [H.L.]; West Riding Tramways Bill [H.L.]; West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill [H.L.]; Wisbech Water Bill [H.L.].—Presented; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners 494

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ROLL OF THE LORDS.—The LORD SPEAKER acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had prepared and laid it on the Table. The same was ordered to be printed. (No. 1) 495

ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH.—Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the London County Council Generating Station at Greenwich in its relation to the Royal Observatory 495

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Report for the year 1906 by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh 495

Feb. 18.] *Page*

"OPTIONS" AND "FUTURES" IN FOOD STUFFS.—Reports from the Canadian Government and His Majesty's representatives abroad on legislative measures respecting gambling in "Option" and "Future" contracts as regards foodstuffs (in continuance of [Cd. 1756.] of 1904) 495

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Orders made by the Light Railways Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade:—

1. (Maidstone Corporation Light Railways (Extensions) Order, 1907.) Authorising the construction of light railways in the borough of Maidstone and in the rural districts of Maidstone, and on the boundary of the rural district of Hollingbourne, in the county of Kent.

2. (County of Middlesex Light Railways (Extension and Lands) Order, 1907.) Authorising the construction of a light railway in the parish of Wembley, in the county of Middlesex (being an extension of the light railways authorised by the county of Middlesex Light Railways Order, 1903) and the taking of lands for widening roads on which the said light railways will be laid in the parishes of Hendon, of Southgate, and of Edmonton, in the said county.

3. (Warrington and Northwich Light Railways (Extension of Time) Order, 1907.) Amending the Warrington and Northwich Light Railways Order, 1903.

4. (Leek, Caldon, Low, and Hartington Light Railways (Borrowing and Further Powers Amendment) Order, 1906.) Amending the Leek, Caldon, Low, and Hartington Light Railways Order, 1898 495

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES)—No. 3744. Italy (South Italy). Presented [by Command] and ordered to lie on the Table 496

NEW SOUTH WALES—The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1906 (No 41) 496

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVER'S FOUNDATION (CAPITAL AND INCOME ACCOUNTS, 1905–1906).—Accounts of the receipt and expenditure of the capital and of the income derived from the lands and other property held for the benefit of Greenwich Hospital, and the Foundation of Samuel Travers, Esquire, for the year ended 31st March, 1906; together with the and Auditor-General thereon Report of the Comptroller 496

PUBLIC RECORDS (INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT).—Second Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the department of the Inland Revenue which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office .. 496

POST OFFICE.

1. (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1906.)

No. 942. (Money Orders.) The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated 21st December, 1906.

No. 943. (Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post, Sweden.) The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 1) Warrant, 1906, dated 20th December, 1906.

2. (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907.)

No. 31. (Inland Post.) The Inland Post Amendment (No. 9) Warrant, 1907, dated 21st January, 1907 496

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Licence granted by His Majesty to Jack Dawson under the provisions of the Penal Servitude Acts, 1853–1891, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A. of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864 497

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BETHNAL GREEN).—Order made by the council of the metropolitan borough of Bethnal Green, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough 497

SUPERANNUATION.—Treasury Minutes, dated 9th February, 1907, granting retired allowances under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887, to—

1. Charles Walter Maies Anderson, late assistant superintendent, Central Telegraph Office, London.

2. Thomas Davidson Brown, late first class engineer, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office.. 497

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.—Fifteenth Annual Report of the proceedings of the Inspection Committee of Trustee Savings Banks, for the year ended 20th November, 1906; with Appendices 497

NATIONAL DEBT (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).—Account of the gross amount of all moneys received and paid by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of the "Fund for Military Savings Banks" from the 19th September, 1845, to the 5th January, 1907.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table .. 497

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

The Lord Privy Seal (The Marquess of Ripon) 497

Moved, "That for the remainder of the session the sittings of this House shall be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, unless otherwise ordered."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 498

On Question, Motion agreed to.

HOME DEFENCE.

Lord Lovat 498
The First Lord of the Admiralty (Lord Tweedmouth) 498
Lord Lovat 500

Feb. 18.] *Page*

Moved, " That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for facts and figures to substantiate the contention of the Under-Secretary of State for War on December 10th, 1906, that the supremacy of the Fleet guaranteed the British Isles from invasion by any force greater than that of a raiding party of 10,000 men."—(*Lord Lovat.*)

Earl Roberts 505
The Under-Secretary of State for War (*The Earl of Portsmouth*) 509
The Marquess of Lansdowne 512
Lord Tweedmouth 515
Lord Lovat 517

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

House adjourned at five minutes past Six o'clock till To-morrow at a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 18TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill ; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill ; Maidstone Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 518

PETITIONS.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from Heaton Moor, for prohibition ; to lie upon the Table 519

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petitions in favour ; from Bolton ; Christchurch and Bournemouth ; Stony Stratford, and Stratford-on-Avon ; to lie upon the Table 519

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending The Leek, Caldon Low, and Hartington Light Railways Order, 1898 (Leek, Caldon Low, and Hartington Light Railways (Borrowing and Further Powers Amendment) Order, 1906) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 519

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the borough of Maidstone and in the rural district of Maidstone and on the boundary of the rural district of Hollingbourne, in the county of Kent (Maidstone Corporation Light Railways (Extensions) Order, 1907) [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table 519

Feb. 18.] *Page*

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the Warrington and Northwich Light Railways Order, 1903 (Warrington and Northwich Light Railways (Extension of Time) Order, 1907) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table. 519

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the parish of Wembley, in the county of Middlesex, being an extension of the Light Railways authorised by The County of Middlesex Light Railways Order, 1903, and the taking of lands for widening roads on which the said Light Railways will be laid in the parishes of Hendon, of Southgate, and of Edmonton, in the said county (County of Middlesex Light Railways (Extension and Lands) Order, 1907) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 520

CONSOLIDATED FUND.—Abstract Account presented, showing the issues made from the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom in the financial year ended 31st March, 1906, for the Interest and Management of the Debt, for the Civil List, and for all other Issues in the financial year for services charged directly on the said Fund; with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 18] 520

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK.—Copy presented, of Fifteenth Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Inspection Committee for the year ended 20th November, 1906, with Appendices [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 19] 520

NATIONAL DEBT (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).—Account presented of the Gross Amount of all Moneys received and paid by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt on account of the Fund for Military Savings Banks, from 19th September, 1845, to the 5th January, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 20] 520

NAVY (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT).—Copy presented of the Appropriation Account of the Navy for 1905–6, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, and upon the Store Accounts of the Navy [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 21] 520

SUPERANNUATION ACTS, 1887.—Copies presented, of Treasury Minutes granting a retired allowance to each of the following, viz.: Charles Walter Maies Anderson, late Assistant Superintendent, Central Telegraph Office, London; Thomas Davidson Brown, late First Class Engineer, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 521

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (ELECTORS, ETC.) (UNITED KINGDOM).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 13th February; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 22] 521

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).—Copy presented of licence to be at large granted to Jack Dawson, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of The Penal Servitude Act, 1864 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 521

Feb. 18.] *Page*

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 521

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 15th February; *Dr. Macnamara*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 23] 521

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3744 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 521

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).—Copy presented, of Report for the year 1906 by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 521

POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POST).—Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 1) Warrant, 1906, dated 20th December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 522

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Inquiry into Charities (County of Wiltshire). Further Return relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901; *Mr. Griffith-Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 24]

2. Public Records (Inland Revenue Department). Copy of Second Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents in the Department of the Inland Revenue which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act] 522

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

TRANSFER OF GLASGOW TELEPHONE OFFICIALS TO POST OFFICE SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton .. 522

SENTENCE ON STOKER MOODY.—Question, Sir Francis Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 522

LICENSING ACT, 1904—LICENCES EXTINGUISHED.—Question, Sir Edward Sassoon (Hythe); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 523

LEITH SHOP ACT CLOSING.—Question, Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 523

TRAWLING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answers, Mr. Sinclair 524

SCOTTISH FISHERY BOARD AND PENALTIES FOR BREACHES OF FISHERIES LAWS. —Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 524

SUPPLY OF FLOUR TO MILITARY STATIONS.—Question, Lord Joicey-Cecil (Lincolnshire, Stamford); Answer, Mr. Haldane 524

TRADING LICENCES IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Churchill 525

Feb. 18.] *Page*

Licences Issued to Chinese Coolies.—Question, Mr. Toulmin (Bury, Lancashire); Answer, Mr. Churchill 525

The Suez Canal Company.—Question, Mr. Henniker Heaton (Canterbury); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 527

Issue of Volumes of the Rolls Series to Public Libraries.—Question, Mr. Countenay Warner (Staffordshire, Lichfield); Answer, Mr. Runciman 526

Issue of the Irish Debates and the Statutes of Session, 1906.—Questions, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.) and Mr. John Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Mr. Runciman 527

Erection of Fishing Pier at Ballaghalin, County Clare.—Question, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.); Answer, Mr. Cherry 527

Blackburn Unemployed.—Question, Mr. Toulmin; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 528

Limited Liability Companies—Compulsory Reserve Funds.—Question, Mr. Hyde (Wednesbury); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 529

Appointments to Position of Assistant Inspectors of Postmen.—Question, Mr. Patrick O'Brien (Kilkenny); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 529

Dog Licences—Exemptions.—Question, Sir Joseph Leese (Lancashire, Accrington); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 529

Excessive Hours of Shop Assistants.—Question, Mr. C. J. O'Donnell (Newington, Walworth); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 530

Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions in India.—Question, Mr. Hart-Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, Mr. Morley 531

Administration of India Army Family Pension Fund.—Question, Mr. Hart-Davies; Answer, Mr. Morley 531

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of T. Sproulle of Ederney, County Fermanagh.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 531

Arklow Harbour.—Question, Sir Thomas Esmonde (Wexford); Answer, Mr. Birrell 532

Inspection of Colonel Digby's Estate, County Westmeath.—Question, Mr. Donald Sullivan (Westmeath); Answer, Mr. Birrell 532

Night Schools—Ireland.—Question, Mr. Murphy; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 535

Working Hours of English and Irish Prison Warders.—Question, Mr. Sheehy (Meath, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 533

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Retired Naval Officers and the Press.—Questions, Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E); Answer, The Secretary to Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 534

Feb. 18.] Page

H.M.S. "Commonwealth."—Questions, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross) and Mr. Arthur Lee (Hunts, Fareham); Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson 534

WOOLICH EXPLOSION—COMPENSATION.—Question, Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 535

DISBANDED BATTALIONS—POSITION OF TRANSFERRED OFFICERS.—Question, Mr. Radford (Islington, E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 535

PLAIN CLOTHES REGULATIONS AT MALTA.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. Haldane 536

DEATH SENTENCES ON SOLDIERS.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 536

ARMY MEDICAL SERVICE ADVISORS BOARD.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Haldane 537

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY IN INDIA.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) .. 537

INDIAN LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.), Earl Percy, (Kensington, S.); Answers, Mr. Morley 538

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 538

ST. PAUL'S SCHOOL, DARJEELING.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 539

SIKHS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) .. 539

WIRELESS TELEGRAPHY—GERMAN OPERATION IN SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Churchill 539

BRITISH INDIAN TRADERS IN NATAL.—Question, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford); Answer, Mr. Churchill 540

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid), Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central), Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answers, Mr. Churchill 541

COOLIE CRIME IN THE TRANSVAAL MINES.—Questions, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury) and Mr. Lehmann (Leicestershire, Market Harborough); Answers, Mr. Churchill 542

TRANSVAAL ELECTIONS.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Churchill 543

TRANSVAAL UPPER CHAMBER.—Question, Mr. Alden; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. 543

THE JAMAICA EARTHQUAKE.—Question, Mr. O. C. Philipps (Pembroke and Haverfordwest); Answer, Mr. Churchill 543

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Questions, Sir Howard Vincent, and Mr. Austen Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth); Answer, Mr. Churchill 544

Feb. 18.]

Page

MR. BRYCE'S SALARY.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Mr. Runciman 545

GREAT BRITAIN AND PERSIA.—Question, Mr. Lynch (Yorkshire, W.R., Ripon); Answer, Mr. Runciman 545

ESTATE DUTIES.—Question, Mr. Radford; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 546

CABLING OF MINISTERIAL SPEECHES TO SOUTH AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Lyttelton (St. George's, Hanover Square); Answer, Mr. Asquith 546

INCOME TAX.—Questions, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.), Mr. C. E. Price (Edinburgh, Central), and Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answers, Mr. Asquith 548

ALLEGED WHISKY FRAUD.—Question, Mr. Lea; Answer, Mr. Asquith 548

REVENUE FROM FOOD AND DRINK TAXES.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Asquith 549

PROVIDENT SOCIETIES REGISTRATION FEE.—Questions, Lord R. Cecil; Answers, Mr. Runciman 549

INSPECTION OF LAUNDRIES.—Questions, Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answers, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 550

CLUBS.—Question, Mr. Raphael (Derbyshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone .. 550

NEW ASSISTANT FACTORY INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 551

DUTIES OF ASSISTANT FACTORY INSPECTORS.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald; Answer. Mr. Gladstone 551

THE IMPRISONED SUFFRAGISTS.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 552

POOR PRISONERS' DEFENCE.—Question, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 552

ASSISTED EMIGRATION.—Questions, Mr. Harold Cox (Preston), Mr. Keir Hardie and Mr. Pickersgill; Answers, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 554

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Questions, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answers, Mr. John Burns 554

REPORT OF POOR LAW COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. Mackarness; Answer, Mr. John Burns 555

LIABILITY OF MARRIED WOMEN UNDER THE POOR LAW.—Question, Mr. Hay Morgan (Cornwall, Truro); Answer, Mr. John Burns 555

THE ELLIOT JUNCTION RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire, E.); Answer, The Lord Advocate (Mr. Thos. Shaw, Hawick Burghs) 556

Feb 18.] *Page*

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.—Questions, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answers, Mr. Thos. Shaw 556

Release of Masters of Grimsby Trawlers.—Questions, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs), Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.), Mr. Weir and Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answers, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 557

Scottish Police Grant.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 558

The Chairman of Scottish Prison Commissioners.—Question, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer Mr. Sinclair 559

Penalties under the Fishery Acts.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 559

Foreign Trawlers in the Moray Firth.—Question Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 559

Scottish Education Bill.—Question, Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire); Answer Mr. Sinclair 560

Irish Land Commission Clerks.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell (Tyrone, S.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) .. 560

Land Sales in County Clare.—Question, Mr. Wm. Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 561

Instruction in the Irish Language.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 561

Upkeep of Irish National Schools.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 561

Irish Land Commissioners.—Question, Mr. T. W. Russell: Answer. Mr. Birrell 562

Irish Board of Education.—Questions, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answers, Mr. Runciman 562

House of Lords Accommodation.—Question, Mr. Harold Cox; Answer, Mr. Asquith 562

The Agricultural Holdings Act.—Questions, Mr. Montagu (Cambridgeshire, Chesterton), Mr. Rowlands (Kent, Dartford) and Mr. Fullerton (Cumberland, Egremont); Answers, Mr. Asquith 535

The Debate on the Address.—Questions, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London), Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil), and Sir H. Cotton; Answers, Mr. Asquith 565

New Member Sworn.—Sir Robert Pullar, knight, for the Parliamentary Burgh of Perth 566

Feb. 18.] *Page*

NEW BILLS.

Jurors (Expenses) Bill.—" To provide for the payment of the Expenses of Jurors attending assizes and quarter sessions in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Lloyd Morgan; supported by Mr. Abel Thomas, Mr. Hay Morgan, Mr. Mackarness, and Mr. Bertram; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 44] 566

Corporal Punishment (Restriction) Bill.—" To restrict the Punishment of Whipping to the cases of male offenders under the age of sixteen years," presented by Mr. Lloyd Morgan; supported by Mr. Abel Thomas, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Trevelyan, and Mr. Hay Morgan; to be read a second time upon Friday, 3rd May, and to be printed. [Bill 45] 566

Fisheries (Ireland) Bill.—" To amend the Laws relating to Fisheries in Ireland and the Boards of Conservators thereof," presented by Mr. Mooney; supported by Mr. Joyce, Mr. Boland, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Gwynn, Mr. Hayden, Mr. William Redmond, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Halpin, Mr. O'Shee, Mr. Lundon, Mr. O'Dowd and Mr. Field; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 46] 567

Absent Voters Bill.—" To facilitate the recording of Votes at Parliamentary Elections by fishermen, sailors, and other persons liable to habitual absence from their usual residence in pursuit of their calling," presented by Mr. Williamson; supported by Mr. M'Crae, Sir Robert Ropner, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Havelock Wilson, Mr. Rainy, and Mr. Crombie; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 2nd April, and to be printed. [Bill 47] 567

Foreign Trawlers Regulation Bill.—" To provide for the better prevention of fishing by Foreign Trawl Vessels within areas closed to British Trawl Vessels," presented by Mr. Williamson; supported by Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Watson Rutherford, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Eugene Wason, Major Anstruther-Gray, Sir Thomas Glen Coats, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Owen Philipps, and Mr. Cathcart Wason; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 48] 567

Sale of Whisky Bill.—" To amend the law relating to the Sale of Whisky, and to provide for the marking of casks and other vessels containing whisky," presented by Mr. Williamson; supported by Mr. Murray, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Sir Andrew Torrance, and Mr. Billson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 49] 568

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (KING'S SPEECH) (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Motion made, and Question put, " That the proceedings on the King's Speech (Motion for an Address), if under discussion at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Orders (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*)

The House divided; Ayes, 281; Noes, 82. (Division List No. 3) 568

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (12th February), " That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth :—

Feb. 18.] *Page*

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

Earl Percy (*Kensington, S.*) 571

Amendment proposed—

> "At the end of the Question, to add the words, 'But humbly regrets that the social legislation declared by Your Majesty's Government to be urgent should be postponed for the purpose of effecting revolutionary changes in the powers exercised by Parliament over the affairs of the United Kingdom and in the constitutional relation between the two Houses.'"—(*Earl Percy.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (*Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.*) 587
Mr. Carlile (*Hertfordshire, St. Albans*) 597
Mr. Austin Taylor (*Liverpool, East Toxteth*) 600
Mr. Swift MacNeill (*Donegal, S.*) 603
Mr. Samuel Roberts (*Sheffield, Ecclesall*) 609
Mr. Masterman (*West Ham, N.*) 610
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (*Lanarkshire, N.W.*) 614
Mr. Paul (*Northampton*) 616
Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) 618
Mr. Adkins (*Lancashire, Middleton*) 621
Sir Frederick Banbury (*City of London*) 623
Mr. Seddon (*Lancashire, Newton*) 627
Mr. Lonsdale (*Armagh, Mid.*) 629
Mr. Fenwick (*Northumberland, Wansbeck*) 631
Captain Craig (*Down, E.*) 636
Mr. Arthur Henderson (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) 638
Mr. F. E. Smith (*Liverpool, Walton*) 643
Mr. A. J. Balfour (*City of London*) 649
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) 649

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 374. (Division List No. 4.)

Main Question again proposed.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Hills*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty-seven minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

ADDRESS.—The King's Answer to the Address of Tuesday last reported; and Address and Answer to be printed and published 673

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.—Return showing the numbers and nationalities of the passengers that left or arrived in the United Kingdom for or from places out of Europe; and the net balance of such passengers outward or inward in each month of the year 1907.

Ordered to be laid before the House (The Lord Granard (*E. Granard*)) 673

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions contained in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902 673

ARMY.—(Estimates)—Memorandum of the Secretary of State relating to the Army Estimates for 1907–1908; Imperial Yeomanry (in Great Britain and Ireland)—Training Return, 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table 673

GREEK LOAN OF 1832.—Account for 1906 673

DUCHY OF CORNWALL.—Receipts and disbursements of the Duchy of Cornwall in the year ended 31st December, 1906 673

COMMITTALS (IRELAND).—Returns from the clerks of the Crown and Peace of number of persons committed for trial in 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 673

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.—Return (in part) respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to order of this day); and to be printed. (No. 3) 674

NEW BILL.

Australian States Constitution Bill [H.L.]—A Bill to amend the law relating to the reservation for His Majesty's pleasure of Bills passed by the Legislature of the States forming part of the Commonwealth of Australia, and to confirm certain Acts passed by those Legislatures—Was presented by the Lord Elgin (*E. Elgin and Kincardine*); read 1^{a}; and to be printed. (No. 2) 674

THE CABLING OF MINISTERIAL SPEECHES.

Lord Harris 674
The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 679
The Marquess of Lansdowne 683
The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 685
Lord Ashbourne 687

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Five o'clock, to Thursday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

Feb. 19.] *Page*

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 19TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Great Northern and City Railway Bill; Cardiff Railway Bill.

Ordered, that the Bills be read a second time 688

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill.—Brighouse Corporation Bill; Bude Gas Bill; Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Leeds Corporation Bill; Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill; Penrith Urban District Council Bill; Sunderland Corporation Bill.—Read a second time and committed 689

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill.—"To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation)," presented by Mr. Sinclair, and (under Section 7 of the Act) ordered to be considered upon Thursday .. 689

PETITIONS.

LAND VALUES (ASSESSMENT AND RATING).—Petition from Chester, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 689

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petition from Barrow-on-Soar, in favour; to lie upon the Table 689

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WARLIKE OPERATIONS (KILLED AND WOUNDED).—Return [presented 15th February]; to be printed. [No. 25] 689

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 26] 689

COMMITTALS (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Returns from the Clerks of the Crown and Peace of the number of persons committed for trial in 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 690

LAND REGISTRY (NEW BUILDINGS) ACT, 1900.—Account presented, showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund, under the provisions of The Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900, and of the Expenditure; the money expended and borrowed and the securities created under the said Act, for the period ended the 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 27] 690

Feb. 19.] *Page*

Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903.—Account presented, showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of The Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903, and of the Expenditure; the money expended and borrowed and the securities created under the said Act for the period ended the 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 28] 690

Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues.—Abstract accounts presented, for the year ended 31st March, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General, thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 29] 690

Duchy of Cornwall.—Account presented, of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Duchy of Cornwall for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 30] 690

Greek Loan.—Account presented, up to 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 31] 690

Post Office (Money Orders).—Copy presented, of Postal Agreement for an Exchange of Money Orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of the Dutch Colony of Surinam, dated the 29th April–7th November, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 690

Army (Memorandum on Estimates).—Copy presented, of Memorandum of the Secretary of State relating to the Army Estimates of 1907–8 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 691

Army Estimates, 1907–8.—Copy presented, of Army Estimates of Effective and Non-Effective Services for the year 1907–8 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 32] 691

Ecclesiastical Commission (Metropolitan Building Estates, Public Houses).—Address for "Return of the areas forming parts of the Metropolitan Estates of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England let for Building purposes and of the number of Public Houses thereon (superseding the Table contained in House of Lords Return, No. 175, of Session 1883)."—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley*) 691

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Tinned Meat Rations in the Navy.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 692

Extra Pay to Naval Stokers performing Clerical Duties.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 692

Enniskillen Mail Service.—Questions, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 692

Hours of Closing of Post Office Savings Banks.—Question, Mr. Wiles (Islington, S.); Answer, Mr. Buxton 693

Telephone System at Robertsbridge, Sussex.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 693

Feb. 19.] Page

THE COLONIAL AUDIT BRANCH STAFF.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Runciman 694

RIGHTS OF ZEMINDASS OF SOUTH INDIA.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Morley 695

RETURN OF ESTATES IN LAND JUDGE'S COURT.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 695

THE COMPTROLLER AND AUDITOR-GENERAL.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 696

PRIZE COURTS AND THE HAGUE TRIBUNAL.—Question, Mr. Arnold Herbert (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman .. 696

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

GREENWICH AGE PENSIONS.—Questions, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth), Mr. Arthur Lee (Hants, Fareham); Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson 697

WAGES IN THE ROYAL DOCKYARDS.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 698

ROSYTH.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 698

THE CHANNEL FLEET.—Questions, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow), Mr. Stanley Wilson (Yorks, E.R., Holderness), Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answers, Mr. Edmund Robertson 698

NAVAL SHIPBUILDING CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 699

THE MILITIA.—Question, Lord J. Joicey-Cecil (Lincolnshire, Stamford); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the War Office (Mr. Buchanan, Perthshire, E.) .. 700

EGYPT—CATTLE FOR TROOPS—METHOD OF SLAUGHTER.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 700

DISCHARGES OF CONSUMPTIVE SOLDIERS.—Questions, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland), Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby); Answer, Mr. Buchanan .. 700

COLONIAL TINNED MEAT FOR THE ARMY.—Question, Mr. Hunt; Answer, Mr. Buchanan 701

WAR OFFICE CONTRACTS AND FAIR WAGES.—Question, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 701

DEATHS OF MILITIA OFFICERS AT FLEETWOOD CAMP.—Question, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford); Answer, Mr. Buchanan 702

CHINA AND THE INDIAN OPIUM TRADE.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 702

Feb. 19.] *Page*

JUDICIAL FLOGGINGS IN INDIA.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, Mr. Morley 703

FLOGGING IN RANGOON GAOL.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 703

WHIPPING IN BURMAH.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 703

INDIAN FACTORY LABOUR INQUIRY.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Morley 704

INDIAN GOLD STANDARD RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 704

ARABIC PROFESSORSHIP IN AGRA AND OUDH. Question, Dr. Hazel (West Bromwich); Answer, Mr. Morley 704

BOMBAY LICENSING REGULATIONS.—Question, Mr. Herbert Roberts (Denbighshire, W.); Answer, Mr. Morley 705

ARAB STOREKEEPERS IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. Scott (Ashton-under-Lyne); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 705

INDIAN STOREKEEPERS IN SOUTH AFRICA—THE VREREDORP ORDINANCE.—Question, Mr. Scott; Answer, Mr. Churchill 706

CHILD LABOUR IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Questions, Mr. Hunt and Sir Howard Vincent; Answers, Mr. Churchill 706

ADMINISTRATION IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Questions, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E.) and Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answers, Mr. Churchill 707

AUSTRALIAN TARIFFS AND THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Question, Mr. Whitehead; Answer, Mr. Churchill 708

OPIUM CURE.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Churchill 708

BAGHDAD RAILWAY.—Questions, Mr. Rees and Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood; Answers, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 708

BELGIUM AND THE CONGO STATE.—Question, Mr. Bennett; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 709

NEW HEBRIDES—FEMALE LABOUR.—Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 709

PERSIAN PARLIAMENT AND FOREIGN ENTERPRISE.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 710

MINE INSPECTORSHIP.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 710

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION—GOVERNMENT MEDICAL REFORM.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 711

Feb. 19.] *Page*

CHILD LABOUR IN FACTORIES.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 712

SHOES FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN—CITY UNION CASE.—Questions, Mr. Summerbell and Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answers, Mr. John Burns 713

DEATHS FROM STARVATION IN EAST LONDON.—Question, Mr. Alden; Answer, Mr. John Burns 714

DURHAM AND NORTHUMBERLAND MAIL CART DRIVERS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 714

SCOTTISH POST OFFICES AND CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.—Question, Mr. Menzies (Lanarkshire, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 715

NAVY LEAGUE MAPS FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.—Questions, Captain Faber (Hampshire, Andover); Answers, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Education (Mr. Lough, Islington, W.) 715

TEACHERS' SUPERANNUATION.—Question, Mr. Lane-Fox (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash); Answer, Mr. Lough 716

SOUTH KENSINGTON TECHNOLOGICAL INSTITUTE.—Question, Sir Philip Magnus (London University); Answer, Mr. Lough 717

GLASGOW PRISON SURGEONSHIP.—Question, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 717

TRACTION ENGINE TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 718

SCOTTISH ASYLUM OFFICIALS' SUPERANNUATION.—Question, Sir J. Jardine; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 718

MR. J. L. BEER'S CORKEY ESTATE.—Question, Mr. C. MacVeigh (Donegal, E.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 718

COST OF TEACHING IRISH IN IRISH SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. J. F. Mason (Windsor); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 719

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 719

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.—Questions, Mr. Ainsworth (Argyllshire) and Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.); Answers, Mr. Asquith 720

INDIA AND THE COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton and Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answers, Mr. Asquith.. 721

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Lane-Fox; Answer, Mr. Asquith 721

NEW BILLS.

Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill.—" To enable courts to suspend the Certificates of Trawlers convicted of illegal trawling," presented by Mr. Weir; supported by Mr. Morton, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Younger, and Major Anstruther-Gray; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 50] 722

Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill.—" To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts," presented by Mr. Weir; supported by Mr. Morton, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bryce, and Mr. Williamson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 51] 722

School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill.—" To admit to the School Board Electorate of Scotland persons entitled to vote for the county council election," presented by Mr. Weir; supported by Mr. Morton, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Dalziel, and Mr. Leicester Harmsworth; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 52] 722

Pharmacy Bill.—" To provide for the further regulation of the sale of poisons and the compounding of medical prescriptions, and to amend the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868," presented by Mr. Winfrey; supported by Mr. Idris, Mr. Frederick Edwin Smith, Mr. Henniker Heaton, Mr. Gibb, Mr. Remnant, Mr. Ellis Griffith, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Cowan, Mr. Gulland, and Mr. O'Malley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 6th March, and to be printed. [Bill 53] 722

Infant Life Protection Bill.—" To amend the Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Staveley-Hill; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Hay, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Hills, and Mr. Nicholls; to be read a second time upon Monday, 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 54] 723

Settlement of Paupers Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to Settlement of Paupers," presented by Mr. Staveley-Hill; supported by Mr. Stuart Wortley, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. Coates, Mr. McLaren, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Corrie Grant; to be read a second time upon Monday, 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 55] 723

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned debate on Question [12th February]. " That an humble address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth " :—

" *Most Gracious Sovereign,*

" We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

Mr. Hills (Durham) 723
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor) 732

Feb. 19.] Page

Amendment proposed—

> "At the end of the Question to add the words, 'But this House humbly expresses regret that no reference is made in Your Majesty's Speech to the approaching Colonial Conference, and to the opportunity thereby offered for promoting freer trade within the Empire and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis.'"—(*Mr. Hills.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) 737
Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester) 746
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.) 751
Mr. Gibb (Middlesex, Harrow) 757
Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central) 759
Mr. McLaren (Staffordshire, W.) 763
Mr. Molteno (Dumfriesshire) 765
Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holbon) 771
Mr. Joseph Walton (Yorks, W.R., Barnsley) 775
Mr. Jesse Collings (Birmingham, Bordesley) 778
Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.) 784
Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow) 789
Mr. Bonar Law (Camberwell, Dulwich) 794
The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 803

Motion made and Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

Shops Bill.—Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withdrawn.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.—Ordered, That the Committee of Public Accounts do consist of fifteen members.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of; Mr. Ashton, Mr. Briggs, Mr. Victor Cavendish, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Gill, Mr. Goddard, Mr. Hazleton, Mr. Holden, Mr. Leif Jones, Sir George Kekewich, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. McCrae, Mr. Runciman, and Colonel Williams.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons papers, and records.

Ordered, That Five be the Quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 812

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn"—(*Mr. Whiteley*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at one minute before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: WEDNESDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill (BY ORDER).—Read a Second Time, and committed 813

PETITION.

AUDIT OF MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS.—Petition from Liverpool, for legislation; to lie upon the Table 813

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVAL WORKS ACTS, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1901, AND 1903.—Account presented, showing the amount of money issued out of the Consolidated Fund; the mode in which it was provided; the amount and nature of the securities created in respect thereof; the amount of the surplus of income above expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1896, and the amount of money expended in pursuance of the Acts during the year ended the 31st March, 1906; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 33] 813

ARMY (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT).—Copy presented, of the Appropriation Account for 1905–6, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, and upon the Store Accounts of the Army [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 34] 831

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES).—Annual Accounts presented, for the year 1905–6, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 35] 813

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES) (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT).—Copy presented, of Appropriation Account of the sums granted by Parliament for the expense of the Ordnance Factories, the cost of the productions of which have

Feb. 20.] Page

been charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonial Governments, etc., and the Statement of the Surpluses and Deficits upon the Grants for the year ended 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act] to lie upon the Table, and to be Printed. [No. 36] 813

ARMY (CLOTHING FACTORY).—Annual Accounts presented, of the Royal Army Clothing Factory for the year 1905–6, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 37] 814

MILITARY WORKS ACTS, 1897, 1899, 1901, AND 1903.—Account presented, for the period ended 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 38] 814

CHELSEA HOSPITAL (ARMY PRIZE MONEY AND LEGACY FUNDS).—Account presented, of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital (for services other than those voted by Parliament) in the year ended 31st March, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act] to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 39] 814

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION (METROPOLITAN BUILDING ESTATES, PUBLIC-HOUSES).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 19th February; *Mr. Stuart-Wortley*]; to lie upon the Table 814

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.—Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Urban District of Chadderton, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of shops within the urban district [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 814

EAST INDIA (TRADE).—Copy presented, of Tables relating to the Trade of British India with British Possessions and Foreign Countries for the five years 1901–2 to 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 814

POSTAL AGREEMENT (HONDURAS).—Copy presented, of Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of the Republic of Honduras for the Exchange of Money Orders dated 22nd October (10th December), 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 814

TREATY SERIES (No. 6, 1907).—Copy presented, of Accession of Brazil to the Convention, signed at Geneva, 22nd August, 1864, for the Amelioration of the condition of the wounded in Armies in the field, 26th January, 1907, [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 815

TREATY SERIES (No. 7, 1907).—Copy presented, of Supplementary Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the mutual Extradition of Fugitive Criminals. Signed at London, 12th April, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at Washington, 21st December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 816

LAND FORCES (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.—Address for "Return showing the total number of Officers and Men in the Land Forces of Great Britain and Ireland, France, Austria, Russia, and Germany (including Prussia), respectively, in each of the years 1792, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1840, 1854, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1906 :—

	1792.	1800.	1805.	1810.	1815.	1840.	1854.	1870.	1880.	1900.	1906.
British Troops :—											
At Home											
In Colonies											
In India											
Total British Troops											
Native Troops :—											
In Colonies											
In India											
Total Native Troops											
Total Active List											
Reserves											
Militia											
Yeomanry											
Volunteers											
Total Reserves											
Total British Land Forces											
France :—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											
Austria :—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											
Russia :—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											
Germany (including Prussia) :—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											

Mr. Bowles 816

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

REDUCTION OF THE MILITIA.—Question, Lord John Joicey-Cecil (Lincolnshire, Stamford); Answer, Mr. Haldane 817

SLAUGHTERING CATTLE FOR BRITISH TROOPS IN EGYPT.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone); Answer, Mr. Haldane 817

Feb. 20.]

Page

SUGGESTED CONSUMPTION SANATORIUM FOR DISCHARGED SOLDIERS.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Haldane 817

COLONIES AND ARMY TINNED MEATS CONTRACTS.—Question, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow); Answer, Mr. Haldane 818

BARRACK BUILDING CONTRACTS—MESSRS. ARUNDLE AND FAIR WAGES CLAUSE.—Question, Mr. Clynes (Manchester, N.E.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 818

DEATHS OF MILITIA OFFICERS AT FLEETWOOD CAMP.—Question, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford); Answer, Mr. Haldane 819

ABLE-BODIED PAUPERS AND TRAMPS.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. John Burns 819

LIABILITY OF STEP-PARENTS.—Question, Mr. Jackson (Greenwich); Answer, Mr. John Burns 820

IRISH EVICTED TENANTS—CASE OF J. WALMSLEY, OF LETTERBOY.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 820

RELIEVING OFFICERS' CHARGES FOR CONVEYANCE OF LUNATICS.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. John Burns 821

DELAY IN RE-PAVING PICCADILLY.—Question, Sir F. Dixon-Hartland (Middlesex, Uxbridge); Answer, Mr. John Burns 821

SPREAD OF CEREBRO-SPINAL FEVER.—Question, Sir F. Channing (Northamptonshire, E); Answer, Mr. John Burns 822

IMPRISONMENT OF MR. A. CLARKE, OF HOUNSLOW, FOR NONPAYMENT OF RATES.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Sir Lawson Walton.. 822

MEMORIAL OF BOY CLERKS.—Question, Sir G. Kekewich (Exeter); Answer, Mr. Runciman 823

COMPASSIONATE GRANTS TO CLERKS TO SURVEYORS OF TAXES.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast); Answer, Mr. Runciman 823

COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY INTO INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Runciman 823

RETIREMENT OF MR. C. MCGANAGALL—MANAGING CLERK, ROORKEE WORKSHOPS.—Question, Mr. Meehan (Queen's County, Leix); Answer, Mr. Morley .. 824

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

VACCINATION OF DOCKYARD EMPLOYEES.—Questions, Mr. Thomasson (Leicester), Mr. Keir Hardie; Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 825

SAILORS' SAVINGS.—Question, Sir Robert Ropner (Stockton); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 825

NAVAL CANTEEN SYSTEM.—Question, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 826

Feb. 20.] *Page*

OPIUM CULTIVATION.—Questions, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.), Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 826

THE 10TH HUSSARS.—Questions, Mr. Rose (Cambridgeshire, Newmarket), Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answers, Mr. Hobhouse 827

BRITISH INDIANS IN NATAL.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Under-Secretary for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 828

NEW HEBRIDES CONVENTION.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts (Sheffield, Ecclesall); Answer, Mr. Churchill 829

BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER IN THE HEBRIDES.—Question, Mr. Samuel Roberts; Answer, Mr. Churchill 829

NEWFOUNDLAND.—Questions, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone), Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend); Answers, Mr. Churchill 829

LABOUR RECRUITING IN PORTUGUESE EAST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 830

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Churchill 830

BRITISH EAST AFRICA.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, Mr. Churchill 830

ALLEGED RUSSIAN ATROCITIES AT RIGA.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury, for Sir Edward Grey) 831

ILLEGAL TRAWLING BY NORWEGIANS IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Mr. Runciman 831

CROWN LANDS ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, Mr. Runciman 832

HOUSING LOAN.—Question, Mr. Morrell (Oxfordshire, Henley); Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 833

DRUNKENNESS IN BRADFORD.—Question, Mr. T. Davies (Fulham); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 834

POOR PRISONERS DEFENCE ACT.—Questions, Mr. Rendall (Gloucestershire, Thornbury), and Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 834

ASSISTANT FACTORY INSPECTORS AND INQUESTS.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 835

GATESHEAD JUVENILE OFFENDER.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 836

POLICE AND SUFFRAGISTS.—Questions, Mr. Morrell and Mr. Flynn (Cork County, N.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 836

Feb. 20.] Page

THE LAW AND THE POOR.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 836

DEFENCE OF THE POOR IN SCOTLAND.—Questions, Mr. Alden and Mr. Keir Hardie; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 837

BARNET VACCINATION CONVICTION.—Question, Mr. Lupton; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 838

EXTINCTION OF LICENCES.—Questions, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport), and Mr. Lief Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 839

THE BOARD OF TRADE.—Questions, Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.), and Mr. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars); Answers, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 839

SPOTTED FEVER.—Questions, Mr. Lupton and Mr. J. W. Wilson (Worcestershire, N.), and Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answers, Mr. John Burns 840

MEDICAL OFFICERS' VACCINATION FEES.—Question, Mr. Raphael (Derbyshire, S.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 841

LEGISLATION IN REGARD TO SALE OF MILK.—Question, Mr. Rendall, and Mr. Alden; Answers, Mr. John Burns 842

TELEGRAPH MESSENGERS AND CHRISTMAS BOXES.—Question, Mr. Whitehead, (Essex, S.E.); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 842

LONDON MAIL VAN DRIVERS.—Questions, Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 843

PENNY POST TO AMERICA.—Question, Mr. Morton, (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Sidney Buxton 843

MILK ADULTERATION.—Question, Mr. Rendall; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire) 843

BEETROOT CULTIVATION IN THE BRITISH ISLES.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 844

VACCINATION OBJECTIONS IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. McCallum (Paisley); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 844

SCOTTISH LAND LEGISLATION.—Question, Mr. Dewar (Inverness); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 845

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. A. Williamson (Elgin and Nairn); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 845

IRISH UNTENANTED LANDS SMALL HOLDINGS.—Questions, Mr. Ginnell (Westmeath, N.) and Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 845

LOUGH ENNIS FLOODS.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. 847

Feb. 20.]

Page

IRISH LAND PURCHASE ANNUITIES.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 847

IRISH LAND PURCHASE BONUSES.—Question, Mr. Ginnell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 848

WEST OF IRELAND POTATOE CROP FAILURE.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 848

TOLLYMORE LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 849

CORK COUNTY EXTRA POLICE CHARGES.—Question, Mr. Flynn (Cork, N.; Answer, Mr. Birrell 850

LISCARROLL EXPERIMENTAL FARM.—Question, Mr. Flynn; Answer, Mr. Birrell 851

ADVANCES UNDER THE IRISH LAND PURCHASE ACT, 1903.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 851

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, ESTATES COMMISSION.—Questions, Mr. Lonsdale; Answers, Mr. Birrell 852

KERRY HERRING FISHERY.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 852

BANBRIDGE LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 853

BOYCOTTING STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. J. F. Mason (Windsor); Answer, Mr. Birrell 854

BANN DRAINAGE.—Question, Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 854

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean), Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) Mr. Keir Hardie and Mr. George White; Answer, Mr. Asquith 855

NEW MEMBERS SWORN.—The Right Hon. Reginald McKenna for County of Monmouth (Northern Division.) Walter Waring, Esquire, for County of Banff 856

NEW BILLS.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools Bill.—"To amend the Law as to Reformatory and Industrial Schools," presented by Mr. George Greenwood; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Gooch, and Mr. Charles Nicholson; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 6th March, and to be printed. [Bill 56.] 856

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

Mr. Austin Taylor (Liverpool, East Toxteth) 856

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Church Discipline Act, 1840, and the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874."—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 858

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered to be brought in by Mr. Austin Taylor, Mr. Thomas Herbert, Mr. Harmood-Banner, Dr. Hazel, Sir Joseph Leese, and Mr. Cameron Corbett.

Church Discipline Bill.—"To amend the Church Discipline Act, 1840, and the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 57.]

STANDING ORDERS.—Ordered, That the Select Committee on Standing Orders do consist of Thirteen Members:—Sir John Brunner, Mr. Crombie, Sir Frederick Cawley, Mr. Ellis, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir Joseph Leese, Colonel Long, Mr. Mildmay, Mr William Redmond, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. James Stuart, and Mr David Alfred Thomas were accordingly nominated Members of the Committee.—(*Sir John Brunner.*) .. 859

SELECTION.—Mr. Blake, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Fenwick, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Sir William Brampton Gurdon, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Mr. William Frederick Smith, and Mr. Eugene Wason were nominated Members of the Committee of Selection, together with the Chairman of the Select Committee on Standing Orders.—(*Sir William Brampton Gurdon.*) 859

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (KING'S SPEECH) (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proeeedings on the King's Speech (Motion for an Address), if under discussion at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Orders (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 348; Noes, 100. (Division List No. 5.) .. 860

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).—Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th February] to Question proposed [12th February], "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth:—

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)—

Which Amendment was—

> "At the end of the Question to add the words 'But this House humbly expresses regret that no reference is made in Your Majesty's Speech to the approaching Colonial Conference, and to the opportunity thereby offered for promoting freer trade within the Empire and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis.' "—(*Mr. Hills.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there added."

Page
Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 864
Mr. Rufus Isaacs (Reading) 876
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 884
The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 892
Mr. Austen Chamberlain (Worcestershire, E.) 906

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 98 ; Noes, 363. (Division List No. 6.)

Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.) 923
Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.) 927

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words, 'But humbly express our regret that, whilst five per cent. of the most highly-skilled artisans are out of employment, and the Unemployed Workmen Act has proved inadequate to deal with distress due to lack of employment, no mention is made in Your Majesty's gracious Speech of any proposals for dealing with this serious and menacing evil.' "—(*Mr. Thorne.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there added."

Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham) 933
Mr. Bridgeman (Shropshire, Oswestry) 937
Mr. Theodore Taylor (Lancashire, Radcliffe) 941
Mr. Brace (Glamorganshire, S.) 945
Mr. Pickersgill (Bethnal Green, S.W.) 946
Mr. Rowlands (Kent, Dartford) 948
Mr. Crooks (Woolwich) 948
The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 952
Mr. Walter Long (Dublin, S.) 962
Mr. Keir Hardie (Merthyr Tydvil) 965
Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton, W.) 969
Mr. Maddison (Burnley) 970

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there added."

The House divided :—Ayes, 47 ; Noes, 207. (Division List No. 7.)

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth :—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign* :

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament.

To be presented by Privy Councillors and Members of His Majesty's Household.

SUPPLY.

Resolved, That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

Ordered, That the several Estimates presented to this House during the present session be referred to the Committee of Supply... 975

WAYS AND MEANS.

Resolved, That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.—(*Mr. Runciman*) 975

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to control the arrangements for the Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms in the Department of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House.

Ordered, That the Committee do consist of Seventeen Members.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of,—Mr. Barnard, Mr. Cremer. Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Fenwick, Viscount Helmsley, Sir Robert Hobart, Mr. John Deans Hope, Sir Alfred Jacoby, Mr. Lea, Colonel Lockwood. Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. McKillop, Mr. Power, Mr. William Redmond, Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. Thorne,and Mr. Walrond.

Ordered, That the Commitee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley*) 976

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Wednesday evening Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at a quarter before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS, THURSDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1907.

The Earl of ONSLOW sat Speaker.

LUCAS PEERAGE.—Petition of Auberon Thomas Herbert, the son and heir of the Lady Florence Amabel Herbert, deceased, to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to be graciously pleased to direct a Writ of Summons to be issued to him for attendance in Parliament as Baron Lucas of Cradwell, or if it be decided that he is not entitled to such dignity under the Patent of King Charles II., to terminate in his favour the abeyance, if such be found to exist, of the Barony of Lucas of Cradwell, together with the rights, privileges, pre-eminences, immunities, and advantages, and the place and precedence belonging thereto, to hold the same to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten for ever; together with His Majesty's reference thereof to this House, and the report of the Attorney-General thereon thereunto annexed; presented [by command], read, and referred to the Committee for Privileges to consider and report 977

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRANSVAAL.—Report of Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, for 1905–1906 977

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1907.—Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with enclosures, respecting the Agenda of the Colonial Conference, 1907 977

TREATY SERIES.

No. 6. (1907). Accession of Brazil to the Geneva Convention of 22nd August, 1864, for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field. (26th January, 1907).

No. 7. (1907). Supplementary Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the mutual surrender of fugitive criminals; signed at London, 12th April, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at Washington, 21st December, 1906) 977

INDIA (TRADE).—Tables relating to the Trade of British India with British Possessions and Foreign Countries, 1901–1902 to 1905–1906 978

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).—Return for the month of December, 1906 978

ARMY.—Interim Report of War Office Committee on Provision of Officers—For services with the Regular Army in war; and for the Auxiliary Forces .. 978

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.—No. 3745 Russia (Poland and Lithuania) for 1906 978

NORTH SEA FISHERIES.—Second Report (Northern Area) on Fishery and Hydrographical Investigations in the North Sea and adjacent waters, 1904–1905. Part I. Hydrography.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table 978

Feb. 21.] *Page*

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870 to 1906.—Order in Council, dated 11th February, 1907, for giving effect to a Supplementary Convention which was concluded on the 12th April, 1905, between His Majesty and the President of the United States of America, for the mutual extradition of fugitive criminals 978

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.—Order in Council, dated 11th February, 1907, amending Orders in Council of 27th November, 1875, relating to stores licensed for gunpowder, and for mixed explosives respectively 978

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Three Orders in Council, dated 11th February, 1907, entitled: The Northern Nigeria Order in Council, 1907; The Corea Order in Council, 1907; The China and Corea (Amendment) Order in Council, 1907 978

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (URBAN DISTRICT OF CHADDERTON).—Order made by the council of the urban district of Chadderton, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the district 979

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1906.—Regulations made by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 979

NEW BILL.

House of Lords Reform Bill.—A Bill to authorise the discontinuance in particular cases of Writs for Summons to the House of Lords, to provide for the appointment of Peers of Parliament for life, and to amend the law relating to the representation in Parliament of the Peerages in Scotland and Ireland. Was presented by the Lord Newton; read 1^{a}; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} on Tuesday the 5th of March. (No. 4.) 979

FOREIGN TRAWLERS IN THE MORAY FIRTH.

Lord Balfour of Burleigh 979
The Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (*Lord Fitzmaurice*) .. 987
Lord Heneage 993
Lord Ashbourne 997
Lord Reay 998

THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.

The Lord Privy Seal (*The Marquess of Ripon*) 999

Moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed to continue the inquiry with respect to the unfinished condition of the rooms in the Palace of Westminster appropriated to the service of this House and their approaches, and that the Lords following be named of the Committee:—M. Cholmondeley, E. Carlisle, E. Brownlow, E. Lytton, E. Plymouth, L. Denman, L. Stanmore."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Committee to meet on Wednesday next at Eleven o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

House adjourned at ten minutes past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, THURSDAY, 21st FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills (Standing Order 62 Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Taff Vale Railway Bill; Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill; London and North Western Railway Bill; London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill; North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways Bill; Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill; Falmouth Gas Bill; Basingstoke Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1000

Private Bills (Standing Order 63 Complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been complied with, viz. :—Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill; Shanklin Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a Second time 1001

Provisional Order Bills (No Standing Orders Applicable).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the first Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz. :—London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow 1001

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill.—Considered; to be read the third time pon Monday next 1001

PETITIONS.

Women's Enfranchisement Bill.—Petitions in favour; From Alnwick; Enfield; and, Richmond; to lie upon the Table 1001

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Ecclesiastical Commission (Metropolitan Building Estates, Public Houses).—Return [presented 20th February] to be printed. [No. 41.] .. 1001

Irish Land Commission (Proceedings).—Copy presented, of Return of Proceed- Command]; to lie upon the Table 1002

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1906.—Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1002

Feb. 21.] *Page*

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.—Copies presented, of three Orders in Council of 11th February, 1907, entitled (1) The Northern Nigeria Order in Council, 1907; (2) The Corea Order in Council, 1907; (3) The China and Corea (Amendment) Order in Council, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table .. 1002

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 11th February, 1907, amending the Orders in Council of the 27th November, 1875, relating to Stores licensed for Gunpowder and for mixed Explosives respectively [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1002

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870 TO 1906.—Copy presented, of Order in Council of 11th February, 1907, for giving effect to a Supplementary Convention which was concluded on the 12th April, 1905, between His Majesty and the President of the United States of America for the Mutual Extradition of Fugitive Criminals [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1002

ARMY (IMPERIAL YEOMANRY).—Copy presented, of Training Return of Imperial Yeomanry for 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1002

ARMY.—Copy presented, of Interim Report of the War Office Committee on the Provision of Officers (*a*) for service with the Regular Army in war, and (*b*) for the Auxiliary Forces [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1002

ARMY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATE, 1906–7.—Copy presented, of Supplementary Estimate for the Army for the year 1906–7 [by Command]; referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 40] 1003

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3745 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1003

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1907.—Copy presented, of Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with Enclosures respecting the Agenda of the Colonial Conference, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1003

TRANSVAAL.—Copy presented, of Report of the Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, for 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1003

NORTH SEA FISHERIES INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE.—Copy presented, of Second Report (Northern Area) on Fishery and Hydrographical Investigations in the North Sea and Adjacent Waters, 1904–5. Part I. Hydrography [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1003

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council amending the Order of the 7th August, 1900, providing for the establishment of a Consultative Committee [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1003

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).—Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 1907. Dated 30th January, 1907 (by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1003

COAL EXPORTED.—Return ordered, "giving for the year 1906, the Export of Coal from each Port in the United Kingdom to each Country Abroad, together with summary statements showing the Export of Coal in every period of three months from the principal districts of the United Kingdom to the principal groups of Foreign Countries; and also showing the quantity of Coal shipped in each Port in the United Kingdom for ships' use on Foreign voyages during like periods (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 121, of Session 1906.)"—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas*) 1003

Prices of Exported Coal.—Return ordered, "giving the quantities of Coal exported from each of the principal Ports in the United Kingdom by quarterly periods in 1906 at prices not exceeding 5s., above 5s. but not exceeding 6s., above 6s. but not exceeding 7s., and so on (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 111, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*) 1004

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Postal Officials Annual Leave.—Question, Sir G. Kekewich (Exeter); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1004

Belfast Telegraphist's Grievance.—Question, Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1004

Vacancies in the Glasgow Telegraph Office.—Question, Mr. Barnes (Glasgow, Blackfriars); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1005

Naval Manœuvres Report.—Question, Mr. Bellairs (Lynn Regis); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1006

Associations of Schools.—Question, Mr. Bertram (Hertfordshire, Hitchin); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1006

Tidworth Sewage Pumps.—Question, Captain Faber (Hampshire, Andover); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1007

Consumptive Soldiers.—Question, Colonel Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1007

Mountmellick Soldiers Pension.—Question, Mr. Meehan (Queen's County, Leix); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1008

Stradbally Soldiers' Pension.—Question, Mr. Meehan; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1008

Sparkbrook Gun Factory.—Question, Mr. Duncan (Barrow-in-Furness); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1009

Repatriated Chinese.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1009

Poor Law Expenditure.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1010

Trade Statistics.—Question, Mr. J. D. White (Dumbartonshire); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George) 1010

Belfast and Lisburn Railway Tickets.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1011

Castleton Railway Fatality.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer, Mr. Kearly 1012

Feb. 21.] Page

CREWS OF CUSTOMS LAUNCHES—HOURS OF LABOUR.—Question, Mr. Steadman (Finsbury, Central); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1013

TEA TRANSIT.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1013

NAVAL STRENGTH.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1014

NUCLEUS CREWS.—Question, Mr. Bellairs; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1014

OPIUM TRAFFIC.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Morley 1015

MR. ADDISON'S DELHI APPOINTMENT.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Morley 1015

BHOLA DISTRICT COURTS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Morley .. 1015

INDIAN RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK.—Question, Mr. Seymour King (Hull, Central); Answer, Mr. Morley 1016

GOTGEIK RAILWAY BRIDGE.—Question, Mr. Walsh (Lancashire, Ince); Answer, Mr. Morley 1016

DUBLIN PUBLIC BUILDINGS.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1017

LOUGH CORRIB SERVICE.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1017

LLOYD ESTATE, COUNTY CAVAN.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1017

CUSHENDALL WATER SUPPLY.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1018

IRISH DRAINAGE COMMISSION.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1018

FINNER CAMP RANGE.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1018

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

ADMIRALTY TENDERS.—Question, Mr. Wedgwood (Newcastle-under-Lyme); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1019

PATROL SHIPS.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1020

REORGANISATION OF THE AUXILIARY FORCES.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1020

ARMY ORDER ON SOLDIERS EMOLUMENTS.—Question, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1021

Feb. 21.] *Page*

RECENT ARMY ORDERS ON SERVICE PAY.—Questions, Sir Charles Dilke; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1022

IMPRISONMENT FOR VAGRANCY IN INDIA.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) 1022

LAHORE EDITORS CONVICTION.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, Mr. Morley 1022

INDIAN JUDICIARY.—Question, Dr. Rutherford (Middlesex, Brentford); Answer, Mr. Morley 1023

NEW HEBRIDES CONVENTION—EMPLOYMENT OF GIRL LABOUR.—Questions, Sir W. Evans Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney), Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley), Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend), Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool), Mr. Lyttelton (St. George's, Hanover Square), Mr. Stavley-Hill (Staffordshire, Kingswinford) and Mr. Walker (Leicestershire, Melton); Answers, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1023

THE PACIFIC ISLANDERS PROTECTION ACT, 1872.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marlybone, E.), and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Mr. Churchill .. 1027

INDIAN TRADERS IN NATAL.—Questions, Sir Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1028

VREDEDORP INDIAN TRADERS.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1028

OPIUM IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1029

COMPENSATION FOR WORKMEN IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1029

WORKING HOURS IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Questions, Major Anstruther-Gray and Mr. Ashley; Answers, Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker 1030

HOLIDAY FOR NAVAL LABOURERS.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1031

RE-ENGAGEMENT OF FEMALE LABOURERS.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1031

COLONIAL GOVERNMENTS AND CONVENTIONS.—Questions, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1031

NEW TRANSVAAL LEGISLATURE.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham), Mr. Swift MacNeill (Donegal, S.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1032

CROWN AGENTS AND THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE.—Question, Mr. Walker; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1032

THE DENSHAWI AFFAIR.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 1033

MADEIRA.—Question, Sir W. Evans Gordon; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1033

Feb. 21.] Page

IRISH COLLEGE IN PARIS.—Question, Mr. O'Dowd (Sligo, S.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1034

SOUDAN WAR—IMPRISONED DERVISHES.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1034

EGYPTIAN SCHOOL TEACHERS.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1034

EGYPTIAN TEACHER'S SALARIES AND PENSIONS.—Question, Dr. Rutherford; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1035

PELLAGRA IN EGYPT.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1035

MILITARY CONSCRIPTION IN EGYPT.—Questions, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1035

LANGUAGE IN EGYPTIAN SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1036

TURKISH CUSTOMS DUTIES.—Question, Earl Percy (Kensington, S.); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1037

RAILWAYS IN MOROCCO.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 1037

NORWEGIAN TRAWLERS IN THE MORAY FIRTH.—Question, Mr. Morton (Sunderland); Answer, Mr. Speaker, Sir Edward Grey 1037

NEW HEBRIDES CONVENTION—RATIFICATION.—Question, Mr. Carlile (Herts, St. Albans); Answer, Sir Edward Grey.. 1038

ALIENS ACT RETURN.—Question, Viscount Castlereagh (Maidstone); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1038

FACTORY ACT—EXTENSION OF PARTICULAR SECTION.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1039

FACTORY INSPECTION.—Question, Mr. Arthur Henderson; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1039

POSTAL PACKET RATES.—Question, Mr. Hodge (Lancashire, Gorton); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 1040

POST OFFICES ON LICENSED PREMISES.—Question, Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1040

SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 1040

MANCHESTER POLICE STATIONS AND CHILDREN'S MEALS.—Question, Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1041

EDUCATION GRANTS.—Question, Mr. Goddard (Ipswich); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1042

INSPECTORS OF WELSH EDUCATION.—Question, Mr. Walrond (Devonshire, Tiverton); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1042

PASSIVE RESISTANCE.—Questions, Mr. George White (Norfolk, N.W.) and Mr. Clough (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton); Answer, Mr. McKenna 1042

THE ELLIOT JUNCTION RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Question, Mr. Laidlaw (Renfrewshire, E.); Answer, The Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade (Mr. Kearley, Devonport) 1043

EQUALISATION OF RAILWAY RATES.—Question, Mr. Hooper (Dudley); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1043

LIVERPOOL RAILWAY SERVANTS' HOURS OF LABOUR.—Question, Mr. Hudson (Newcastle-on-Tyne); Answer, Mr. Kearley 1044

LEEDS RAILWAY SERVANTS' WORKING HOURS.—Question, Mr. Hudson; Answer, Mr. Kearley 1044

ROYAL COMMISSION ON TUBERCULOSIS.—Question, Mr. O'Grady (Leeds, E.); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) 1045

SCOTTISH EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries Burghs); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1045

SCOTTISH RIGHTS OF WAY.—Question, Mr. Watt; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 1045

IRISH LABOURERS' COTTAGES.—Questions, Mr. J. P. Farrell (Longford, N.), Mr. Joyce (Limerick) and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool, Exchange) 1046

IRISH LAND PURCHASE.—Question, Mr. William Redmond; Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1046

LAND PURCHASE IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Hayden (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1047

WINN ESTATE, GLENBEIGH.—Question, Mr. Boland (Kerry, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1048

MORLEY ESTATE, CAVAN.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1048

FAIR RENT APPEALS.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1048

O'DWYER ESTATE, TIPPERARY.—Question, Mr. Hogan (Tipperary, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1049

LAND ACT SALES.—Questions, Mr. Gibbs (Bristol, W.), and Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1049

THOMPSON ESTATE, CLONFIN.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1050

O'BRIEN ESTATE, CORGLASS.—Question, Mr. J. P. Farrell; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1050

IRISH SCHOOL RETURNS.—Question, Mr. Brigg (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1050

BELFAST DEATH RATE.—Question, Mr. McKillop (Armagh, S.) and Mr. Mooney (Newry); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1051

Feb. 21.] Page

IRISH TEACHERS' PENSION FUND.—Question, Mr. Murphy (Kerry, E.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1051

THE HAGUE CONFERENCE.—Questions, Mr. Ashley and Mr. Arthur Lee (Hampshire, Fareham); Answers, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1052

NEW HEBRIDES CONVENTION.—Questions, Mr. Staveley Hill and Lord R. Cecil; Answers, Mr. Asquith 1052

NATIONAL GOLD RESERVE.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1053

TAXES ON FOOD AND DRINK.—Question, Mr. R. Duncan (Lanarkshire, Govan); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1053

INCOME TAX.—Question, Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.); Answer, Mr. Asquith .. 1054

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1054

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND).—Return ordered, "giving the number of Arrests for Drunkenness within the Metropolitan Police District of Dublin and the Cities of Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, from the hour of 9 p.m. to 12 midnight on Saturdays, and from 12 midnight to 8 a.m. on Sundays, and from 8 a.m. on Sunday till 2 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight, from 12 midnight to 8 a.m. on Monday, between the 1st day of May, 1905, and 31st day of December, 1906, both days inclusive, the arrests being given from 8 a.m. on Sundays till 8 a.m. on Mondays; and similar Returns for the rest of Ireland from the 1st day of May, 1905, to the 31st day of December, 1906."—(*Mr. Sloan*) 1055

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Committee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, which may, by Order of the House, be committed to such Standing Committee:—Mr. Attorney-General, Sir Frederick Cawley, Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Sir Francis Channing, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Alexander Cross, Mr. Cullinan, Mr. David Davies, Mr. Vaughan-Davies, Mr. Timothy Davies, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Mr. Duckworth, Mr. Charles Duncan, Mr. Everett, Mr. Ferens, Mr. Munro Ferguson, Sir Christopher Furness, Mr. Haddock, Colonel Harrison-Broadley, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Idris, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Kearley, Mr. Kettle, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. Lloyd-George, Colonel Long, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Manfield, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, Mr. M'Killop, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Charles Nicholson, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Partington, Major Renton, Mr. Thomas Richards, Sir George Robertson, Mr. John Robertson, Mr. Robinson, Sir Robert Ropner, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Soames, Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. John Talbot, Mr. Austin Taylor, Mr. Theodore Taylor, Mr. David Alfred Thomas, Mr. Verney, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. George White, Mr. Osmond Williams, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, Mr. Wolff, and Mr. Young.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Committee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure which may, by Order of the House, be committed to such Standing Committee:—The Lord Advocate, Mr. William Abraham (Cork), Mr. Adkins, Mr. Harwood-Banner, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Barran, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Billson, Mr. Boland, Mr. Bowles, Mr. Brace, Mr. Bright, Mr. Cave, Mr. Chance, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Cobbold, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Herbert Craig, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. Ellis Davies, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Clement Edwards, Mr. Evans, Mr. George Faber (York), Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Flynn, Sir Henry Fowler, Mr. Gwynne, Mr. Harwood, Mr. James Haslam, Mr. Healy, Colonel Ivor Herbert, Mr. Higham, Mr. Hodge, Mr. Bateman Hope, Sir John Jardine, Mr. Vincent Kennedy, Sir Joseph Leese, Mr. Lambton, Mr. Lehmann, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Maddison, Mr. Massie, Mr. Lloyd-Morgan, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Napier, Mr. Nussy, Mr. Pike Pease, Mr. Pickersgill, Sir Francis Powell, Mr. Rainy, Mr. Rees, Mr. Compton Rickett, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Soares, Mr. Solicitor-General, Sir Benjamin Stone, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. Thornton, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Waldron, Mr. J Joseph Walton, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Whitehead.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1055

Selection (Standing Committees) (Chairmen's Panel).—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had selected the following six Members to be the Chairmen's Panel and to serve as Chairmen of the two Standing Committees to be appointed under Standing Order No. 49:—Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Lawrence Hardy, Sir David Brynmor Jones, Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. Eugene Wason, and Mr. James William Wilson.

Report to lie upon the Table 1055

NEW BILLS.

Coroners Bill.—"To dispense with the compulsory viewing of bodies on the holding of Coroners' inquests," presented by Mr. Luke White; supported by Mr. Bramsdon, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Toulmin, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and Mr. Summerbell; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 58.] 1057

Shops (No. 2) Bill.—"To amend the Law relating to Shops," presented by Sir Charles Dilke; supported by Mr. Bowerman, Mr. Timothy Davies, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. McCrae, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Alfred Scott, Mr. Seddon, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Wedgwood; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 59.] 1057

Home Work Regulation Bill.—"To provide for the better Regulation of Home Industries," presented by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald; supported by Mr. Crooks, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. George Roberts, Mr. Ernest Lamb, Mr. Billson, Mr. Fiennes, Sir Gilbert Parker, and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 60.] 1057

Supply.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Feb. 21.] *Page*

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,300, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens."

Colonel Lockwood (*Essex, Epping*) .. 1057
The First Commissioner of Works (*Mr. Harcourt, Lancashire, Rossendale*) 1059
Mr. Courthope (*Sussex, Rye*) .. 1059

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2.200. be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

Mr. Harcourt .. 1060
Mr. Austen Chamberlain (*Worcestershire, E.*) .. 1062
Mr. Shackleton (*Lancashire, Clitheroe*) .. 1062
Mr. William Rutherford (*Liverpool, West Derby*) .. 1063
Sir F. Banbury (*City of London*) .. 1063
Mr. Harcourt .. 1064
Mr. Austen Chamberlain .. 1066

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £11,900, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Houses of Parliament Buildings."

Mr. Ashley (*Lancashire, Blackpool*) .. 1067

Motion made, and Question proposed "That a sum not exceeding £11.800 be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Mr. Dillon .. 1068
Mr. William Rutherford .. 1070
Mr. Morton (*Sutherland*) .. 1072
Mr. Victor Cavendish (*Derbyshire, W.*) .. 1074
Colonel Lockwood .. 1075
Mr. Laurence Hardy (*Kent, Ashford*) .. 1077
Mr. William Redmond (*Clare, E.*) .. 1077
Mr. Harcourt .. 1077
Sir F. Banbury .. 1079
Mr. Seddon (*Lancashire, Newton*) .. 1081
Mr. Meysey Thompson (*Staffordshire, Handsworth*) .. 1082
Mr. J. A. Bright (*Oldham*) .. 1083
Mr. Rees (*Montgomery Boroughs*) .. 1084
Mr. J. Ward (*Stoke-on-Trent*) .. 1084
Mr. Courthope .. 1086
Mr. Hicks-Beach (*Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury*) .. 1088
Mr. Weir (*Ross and Cromarty*) .. 1089

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 57; Noes, 264. (Division List No. 8.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum not exceeding £1,550, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and expenses in the offices of the House of Commons.

Mr. Morton 1092
Mr. Stuart Wortley (Sheffield Hallam) 1093
Sir F. Banbury 1093
Mr. Victor Cavendish 1095
Mr. Claude Hay (Shoreditch, Hoxton) 1096
The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) .. 1098
Mr. Dalziel (Kirkcaldy Burghs) 1100
Sir F. Banbury 1101

Motion made, and Question proposed "That a sum not exceeding £550, be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir F. Banbury.*)

Mr. Runciman 1101
Mr. Dalziel 1102
Mr. T. L. Corbett 1102

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 23 ; Noes, 206. (Division List No. 9.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a supplementary sum, not exceeding £255, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and expenses under the Inebriates Acts."

Mr. Meysey-Thompson (Staffordshire, Handsworth) 1105
Mr. T. L. Corbett 1107

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £55, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Thomas Corbett*)

Mr. Morton 1108
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, W.) 1109
Mr. Wm. Rutherford 1110
Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.) 1111
Mr. T. L. Corbett 1112
Sir F. Banbury 1112

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 25 ; Noes, 198. (Division List No. 10.)

Original Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 200 ; Noes, 24. (Division List No. 11.)

CLASS III.

5. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

Mr. Claude Hay .. 1119
Mr. Morton .. 1120
The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) .. 1120
Sir F. Banbury .. 1121
Mr. Myer .. 1123
Mr. Morton .. 1123
Colonel Lockwood .. 1123
Mr. Runciman .. 1123
Mr. Claude Hay .. 1124
Sir F. Banbury .. 1124
Mr. Morton .. 1124
Mr. Runciman .. 1125

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 211 ; Noes, 32. (Division List No. 12.)

6. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £140, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1907, for Salaries and Expenses of the Crofters' Commission."

Captain Craig (Down, E.) .. 1127
Mr. Courthope .. 1127
The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) .. 1128
Mr. Austen Chamberlain .. 1129
Mr. Morton .. 1131

Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS IV.

7. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £11,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Grants towards the Expenditure of certain School Boards in Scotland."

Mr. Dillon .. 1131
Mr. Sinclair .. 1131
Mr. Austen Chamberlain .. 1132
Mr. Sinclair .. 1133
Sir F. Banbury .. 1133
Mr. Sinclair .. 1134
Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) .. 1134
Captain Craig .. 1135

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Captain Craig.*)

Mr. T. L. Corbett 1136

Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 33 ; Noes, 229. (Division List No. 13.)

Original Question put, and agreed to.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next ; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

Public Petitions.—Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed, to whom shall be referred all Petitions presented to the House, with the exception of such as relate to Private Bills ; and that such Committee do classify and prepare abstracts of the same, in such form and manner as shall appear to them best suited to convey to the House all requisite information respecting their contents, and do report the same from time to time to the House ; and that the Reports of the Committee do set forth, in respect of each Petition, the number of signatures which are accompanied by addresses, and which are written on sheets headed in every case by the prayer of the Petition ; provided that on every separate sheet after the first the prayer may be reproduced in print or by other mechanical process; and that such Committee have power to direct the printing *in extenso* of such Petitions, or of such parts of Petitions, as shall appear to require it ; and that such Committee have power to report their opinion and observations thereupon to the House.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of Mr. Edward Barry, Mr. Burt, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. Ellis Griffith, Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, Mr. Henniker Heaton, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. M'Arthur, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Wynford Philipps, Mr. Charles Shaw, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, Mr. Wills, and Mr. Henry Joseph Wilson.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*) 1139

Adjourned at eleven minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: FRIDAY, 22nd FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

New Writ for the County of Tyrone (North Tyrone Division), in the room of Sergeant William Huston Dodd, K.C., Judge of His Majesty's High Court of Justice in Ireland.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*) 1141

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill—Read a second time, and committed 1141

Feb. 22.] *Page*

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1141

Local Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1141

PETITIONS.

LICENSING ACTS.—Petition from Trafford Park, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1141

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.—Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table 1141

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (BUILDING BY-LAWS).—Petition from the Institute of Sanitary Engineers, Limited, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1141

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.—Petition from Birmingham, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table 1141

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.—Petitions in favour—from Chelsea, Harpenden, North East Kent, and Sheerness; to lie upon the Table 1141

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Paper [presented 21st February] to be printed. [No. 42] 1142

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Copy presented, of Time Table of Examinations for the year 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table 1142

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1906–7 (PROGRAMME OF SHIPBUILDING, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, ETC.).—Copy presented, of Statement showing the probable effect on the Programme due to Reappropriation of Cash, Provision, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 43] 1142

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House—

Bank of England. Copy of all applications made by the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England for advances to Government authorised by Parliament, from 5th January, 1906, to 5th January, 1907 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 44] 1142

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

SUNDAY DELIVERY OF LETTERS IN THE HUDDERSFIELD DISTRICT.—Question, Mr. Hodge (Lancashire, Gorton); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1142

MAIL CART DRIVERS IN DUBLIN—CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1143

PORT REGULATION AT GENOA.—Question, Mr. Montgomery (Somersetshire, Bridgewater); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1143

COST OF PAUPERISM.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1144

BOARDING-OUT OF PAUPER CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Corrie Grant (Warwickshire); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1144

CEREBRO SPINAL FEVER.—Question, Sir F. Channing (Northamptonshire, E.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1144

BELLAGHY AND CASTLEDAWSON MAILCAR SERVICE.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answer, Mr. S. Buxton 1145

POSTAL DELIVERIES AT DUNFANAGHY AND BURTONPORT.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law (Donegal, W.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1145

BOARD OF TRADE RETURNS—CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.—Question, Mr. Mond (Chester); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1145

HOURS OF RAILWAY SERVANTS.—Question, Sir F. Channing; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1146

TRANSFERS OF WOMEN TELEGRAPHISTS TO LONDON.—Question, Mr. Bowerman (Deptford); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1147

MEMORIAL OF VETERINARY INSPECTORS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF IRELAND.—Question, Mr. J. MacVeagh; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1148

SALE OF THE BERESFORD WHYTE ESTATE, COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. Dolan (Leitrim, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1148

SALE OF THE CROFTON ESTATE, COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. Dolan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1149

SALE OF THE TOTTENHAM ESTATE, COUNTY LEITRIM.—Question, Mr. Dolan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1149

KILKEEL RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AND THE RETRANSFER OF LAND.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1149

INSPECTOR OF IRISH SCHOOLS.—Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1150

MARINE WORKS AT FALCHORRIB, COUNTY DONEGAL.—Question, Mr. Hugh Law; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1150

HOURS OF WORK AT THE WAR OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Higham (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1151

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Sir Brampton Gurdon (Norfolk, N.) 1151
Mr. Arthur Henderson (Durham, Barnard Castle) 1156

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Sir Brampton Gurdon.*)

Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.) 1159
Sir Francis Powell (Wigan) 1166

Feb. 22.] Page

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Lord R. Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

Sir J. Jardine (Roxburghshire) 1169
Mr. Lawrence Hardy (Kent, Ashford) 1170
Mr. Smeaton (Stirlingshire) 1176
Lord Edmund Talbot (Sussex, Chichester) 1177
Mr. Tomkinson (Cheshire, Crewe) 1179
Mr. Jesse Collings (Birmingham, Bordesley) 1180
Mr. S. Collins (Lambeth, Kennington) 1181
Mr. Talbot (Oxford University) 1182
Sir Henry Fowler (Wolverhampton, E.) 1186
Mr. Evelyn Cecil (Aston Manor) 1195
Sir John Kennaway (Devonshire, Honiton) 1199

Sir Brampton Gurdon rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 255; Noes, 40. (Division List No. 14.)

Question put accordingly—"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 269; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 15.)

Main question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 263; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 16.)

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Sir Brampton Gurdon.*)

Mr. Talbot 1211
Sir Henry Fowler 1211

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 257; Noes, 41. (Division List No. 17.)

Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill.—Order for Second Reading read.

Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby) 1215

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Leif Jones.*)

Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 1215

And, it being Five of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday next.

Poisons and Pharmacy.—Bill to regulate the sale of certain poisonous substances; and to amend the Pharmacy Acts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Herbert Samuel and Sir Edward Strachey.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill.—"To regulate the sale of certain poisonous substances; and to amend the Pharmacy Acts," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 61] 1216

Whereupon Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at three minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS: MONDAY, 25th FEBRUARY, 1907.

The Viscount Templetown took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Borax Consolidated [H.L.]; Colne Valley Water [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate and Hythe Tramways [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) [H.L.]; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) [H.L.]; North British Railway [H.L.]; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation [H.L.]; Oxford and District Tramways [H.L.]; Portishead District Water [H.L.]; Royal Insurance Company [H.L.]; Staveley Coal and Iron Company [H.L.]; West Yorkshire Tramways [H.L.]; Medmay Lower Navigation [H.L.]; Newquay and District Water [H.L.]; Southend Water [H.L.]; West Riding Tramways [H.L.]; Wisbech Water [H.L.].

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill:—Baines' Name—(Petition for Bill).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table. 1217

Galwey's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A witness ordered to attend on the Second Reading of the Bill 1217

Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment Bill [H.L.].—The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with 1217

Feb. 25.] Page

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [H.L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1217

Birmingham Corporation Water Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed .. 1218

Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill [H.L.]; Coventry Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Devonport Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1218

Harrison's Patent Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª, and committed 1218

Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Humber Conservancy Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1218

Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed 1218

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1218

Merthyr Tydvil Stipendiary Justice Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed 1218

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1218

St. Neot's Urban District Council Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed .. 1218

Selsey Water and Gas Bill [HIL.].—To be read 2ª, To-morrow 1218

Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed .. 1218

Southend-on-Sea Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1218

Tees Conservancy Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed 1219

Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill [H.L.].—Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1219

North British Railway Bill [H.L.].—Moved, that leave be given to present a petition of the promoters of the Buckhaven Dock Provisional Order praying to be heard by Counsel against the North British Railway Bill; agreed to 1219

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (ESTIMATES, 1906–1907).—Programme of shipbuilding, repairs, maintenance, etc.; Statement showing the probable effect on the programme due to re-appropriation of cash provision, etc. 1219

ARMY.—Memorandum on the Military Forces in the United Kingdom; approximate estimate of the cost of the proposed Territorial Force 1219

MINES AND QUARRIES (INUNDATION OF WATER AT CARADOG VALE COLLIERY).—Reports to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Sir D. Brynmor-Jones, K.C., M.P., and F. A. Gray, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, on the circumstances attending the inundation of water which occurred at Caradog Vale Colliery on 26th June, 1906.

Presented (by Command). and ordered to lie on the Table 1219

BOARD OF EDUCATION.—Draft Order in Council amending the Order of 7th August, 1900, providing for the establishment of a consultative committee 1219

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).—Time Table of Examinations for the year, 1907 1219

POST OFFICE (STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1907).—No. 65. (Money Orders.) The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations, 1907, dated 30th January, 1907 1220

BUILDING SOCIETIES.—Twelfth Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Acts; with abstract of the annual accounts and statements of societies, for the year 1906 1220

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES, INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES, AND TRADE UNIONS.—Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, for the year ended 31st December, 1906 1220

DUCHY OF LANCASTER.—Account of receipts and disbursements of the Duchy of Lancaster in the year ended 21st December, 1906, also a separate account of the capital of the said Duchy to the same date 1220

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.—Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, under Section 2 of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899:—

That, having regard to Section 16 (2) of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, the provisions of the Electric Supply Corporation Order; Part II. of the Aberdeen Corporation Order; and Clause 65 of the Dundee Corporation Order, ought not to be dealt with by Provisional Order under that Act.

That the provisions of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Order; the Royal Bank of Scotland Order; and Clause 34 of the Leith Harbour and Docks Order, are of such a character that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order.

That, the Buckhaven Dock Order; the Glasgow Corporation Order; and the Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Order, raise such questions of policy and principle that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order.

Feb. 25.] *Page*

That, save as aforesaid, the Draft Provisional Orders be allowed to proceed, subject to such recommendations as we may hereafter make with respect to the several Orders.

Laid before the Houe (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table 1220

BANK OF ENGLAND.—Applications made by the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England for advances to Government authorised by Parliament from 5th January, 1906, to 5th January, 1907, with Minutes of the Court of Directors thereon, and answers of the said Court thereto; delivered (pursuant to Act). and ordered to lie on the Table 1221

NEW BILL.

Judicature Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law with respect to the Court of Appeal was presented by the Lord Chancellor. Read 1^a; and to be printed. (No. 5.) 1221

House adjourned at half-past Four o'clock, till To-morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: MONDAY, 25TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

KING'S SPEECH (ANSWER TO ADDRESS).—The Comptroller of the Household reported His Majesty's Answer to the Address 1221

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills. That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—North Staffordshire Railway Bill; North-East London Railway Bill; Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynamman Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time 1222

Post Office Sites Bill (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).—MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 15th day of February, That, in the case of the following Bill, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Post Office Sites Bill 1222

Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill.—Read a second time, and committed .. 1222

Maidstone Gas Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1222

Police and Sanitary Committee.—Ordered, That the Committee of Selection do nominate a Committee, not exceeding twelve members, to be called the Police and Sanitary Committee, to whom shall be committed all Private Bills promoted by municipal and other local authorities by which it is proposed to create powers relating to police or sanitary regulations in conflict with, deviation from, or excess of the provisions of the general law.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 150 and 173a apply to all such Bills.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That four be the quorum of the Committee.

Ordered, That if the Committee shall report to the Committee of Selection that any Clauses of any Bill referred to them (other than Clauses containing police and sanitary regulations) are such as, having regard to the terms of reference, it is not in their opinion necessary or advisable for them to deal with, the Committee of Selection shall thereupon refer the Bill to a Select Committee who shall consider those Clauses and so much of the preamble of the Bill as relates thereto, and shall determine the expenditure (if any) to be authorised in respect of the parts of the Bill referred to them. That the Committee shall deal with the remaining Clauses of such Bill, and so much of the preamble as relates thereto, and shall determine the period and mode of repayment of any money authorised by the Select Committee to be borrowed and shall report the whole Bill to the House, stating in their Report what parts of the Bill have been considered by each Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power, if they so determine, to sit as two Committees, and in that event to apportion the Bills referred to the Committee between the two Committees, each of which shall have the full powers of, and be subject to the instructions which apply to, the undivided Committee, and that four be the quorum of each of the two Committees.—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel*) 1222

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill.—Read the third time, and passed 1223

PETITIONS.

British Museum.—Petition of Trustees of the British Museum, for grant-in-aid (King's Recommendation signified); referred to the Committee of Supply 1223

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland).—Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th July, 1906; *Mr. McCrae*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 45].. 1224

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899.—Copy presented, of Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, that they are of opinion that

Feb. 25.] *Pag*

the Electric Supply Corporation Order, Part II. of the Aberdeen Corporation Order, and Clause 65 of the Dundee Corporation Order ought not to be dealt with by Provisional Order under that Act, and that the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation (Limited) Order, the Royal Bank of Scotland Order, Clause 34 of the Leith Harbour and Docks Order, the Buckhaven Dock Order, the Glasgow Corporation Order, and the Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Order ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 46] 1224

MINES AND QUARRIES (INUNDATION OF WATER AT CARADOG VALE COLLIERY).—Copies presented, of Reports to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Sir David Brynmor Jones, K.C., M.P., and F. A. Gray, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, on the circumstances attending an inundation of water which occurred at Caradog Vale Colliery on the 26th June. 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1224

ARMY.—Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Military Forces in the United Kingdom [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1224

ARMY.—Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of the Cost of the Proposed Territorial Force [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1225

LOCAL OPTION (COLONIES).—Return presented, relative thereto [Address 1st May, 1906; *Mr. Leif Jones*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 47] 1225

DUCHY OF LANCASTER.—Accounts presented, for the year ended 21st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 48] .. 1225

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Friendly Societies, Workmen's Compensation Schemes, Industrial and Provident Societies, and Trade Unions, Reports of the Chief Registrar for the year ending 31st December, 1906 [by Ac]; to be printed. [No. 49] .. 1225

Building Societies, Copy of Twelfth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Act, etc. [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 50] 1225

BRITISH MUSEUM.—Account ordered, "of the income and expenditure of the British Museum (Special Trust Funds) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1907; Return of the number of persons admitted to visit the Museum and the British Museum (Natural History) in each year from 1901 to 1906, both years inclusive; together with a statement of the progress made in the arrangement and description of the collections, and an account of objects added to them in the year 1906."—(*Mr. Rothschild*) 1225

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).—Return ordered, "showing for each of the three Kingdoms (1) the amount charged for Income Tax, Land Tax, and Inhabited House Duty for the financial years 1905, 1906, and 1907; and (2) the amounts and percentage of the same collected in each country by the 31st day of January and the 28th day of February respectively in each of the said years (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 269, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. McCrae*) 1226

Page

WINES IMPORTED.—Return ordered, "showing the quantity of wines, at the various degrees of strength, which were imported into the United Kingdom in 1906, from Spain, Portugal, Maderia, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, and other countries."—(*Sir Frederick Banbury*) 1226

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

CONFIRMATION OF SHOP CLOSING ORDERS.—Question, Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith Burghs); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1226

SUPPRESSION OF ATROCITIES IN THE CONGO.—Question, Sir George Kekewich (Exeter); Answer, Sir Edward Gray 1226

AGRICULTURAL LAND IN ENGLAND AND WALES.—Question, Mr. Rogers (Wiltshire, Devizes); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1227

IMPORTS OF BEEF AND MUTTON.—Question, Mr. John O'Connor (Kildare, N.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1227

POSITION OF SENIOR OFFICERS WHOSE REGIMENTS ARE DISBANDED.—Question, Colonel Long (Worcestershire, Evesham); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1231

TINNED MEAT FOR THE ARMY.—Question, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1232

REPAIR OF BURIAL GROUND AT BALINAKILL.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1231

DEFECTIVE WATER SUPPLY TO SCHOOLS IN THE ISLAND OF LEWIS.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1233

ORDNANCE SURVEY ASSISTANTS' SALARIES.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1233

IRISH ORDNANCE SURVEY.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1234

POSTMASTERS' HOLIDAYS.—Question, Mr. Hart Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1235

STOKE NEWINGTON SORTING OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Hart Davies; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1235

S.S. "MORAVIA" AND "STAG."—Question, Mr. Havelock Wilson (Middlesbrough); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1235

SHIPBUILDING DISPUTES ON THE CLYDE AND TEES.—Question, Mr. Toulmin (Bury); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1236

BALLINAKILL BAY OYSTERS.—Question, Mr. O'Malley (Galway, Connemara); Answer, Mr. Cherry 1236

LOUGH ERNE FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh (Fermanagh, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1237

ELY ESTATE, COUNTY FERMANAGH.—Question, Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1237

Feb. 25.] *Page*

IRISH LIGHTS BOARD.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George .. 1238

EVICTED TENANTS IN QUEEN'S COUNTY.—Question, Mr. Meehan (Queen's County, Leix); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1238

STROKESTOWN TENANTS' DIFFICULTIES.—Question, Mr. O'Kelly (Roscommon, N.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1239

CAPTAIN CALDBECK'S BALLACOLLA ESTATE.—Question, Mr. Delany (Queen's County, Ossory); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1239

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

HIS MAJESTY'S SHIPS—OFFICERS' EXPENDITURE ON PAINT.—Question, Mr. Hart-Davies (Hackney, N.); Answer, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1240

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.—Question, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1241

ROYAL VISIT TO DEVONPORT—THE ADMIRALTY AND THE MUNICIPALITY.—Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E.); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1241

GERMAN FLEET.—Question, Mr. Hunt (Shropshire, Ludlow); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1241

PAARDEBURG MEDAL.—Question, Mr. Whitehead; Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1242

NEW CAVALRY SWORD.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1242

DUKE OF YORK'S SCHOOL.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Haldane 1243

DEFENCES OF LONDON.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale (Armagh, Mid.); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1243

INDIAN ADMINISTRATION.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for India (Mr. Charles Hobhouse, Bristol, E.) 1244

INDIAN RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK.—Question, Mr. Annan Bryce (Inverness Burghs); Answer, Mr. Hobhouse 1244

THE 10TH HUSSARS.—Questions, Mr. Rose (Cambridgeshire, Newmarket) and Mr. Lea (St. Pancras, E.); Answers, Mr. Hobhouse 1245

INDIAN SUPPLY AND TRANSPORT CROPS.—Question, Mr. Annan Bryce; Answer, Mr. Hobhouse 1245

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE—FEES ON APPOINTMENT.—Question, Mr. Rees; Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) 1246

SLATE CLUBS.—Question, Mr. Whitehead (Essex, S.E); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1246

Feb. 25.]

Page

FOREIGN LABOUR IN SCOTTISH MINES.—Questions, Sir W. Evans-Gordon (Tower Hamlets, Stepney) and Mr. Byles (Salford, N.); Answers, Mr. Gladstone 1247

WALL PAPER INDUSTRY.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 1247

BAKER STREET AND WATERLOO TUBE RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. T. Davies (Fulham); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1248

COAL EXPORTS.—Question, Mr. Fell (Great Yarmouth); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1249

WATERFORD RAILWAY STATION TOLLS.—Question, Mr. Power (Waterford, E.); Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1249

UNITED STATES DUTIES ON IMPORTED WORKS OF ART.—Question, Mr. Lonsdale; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1250

UNEMPLOYMENT RETURNS.—Questions, Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood), Mr. Thorne (West Ham, S.) and Mr. Chiozza Money; Answers, Mr. Lloyd-George 1250

LAMB'S CONDUIT STREET VACCINATION STATION.—Question, Mr. Lupton (Lincolnshire, Sleaford); Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1252

SPOTTED FEVER.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent (Sheffield, Central); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1253

WESTMINSTER CITY COUNCIL FINANCE.—Question, Sir Robert Hobart (Hampshire, New Forest); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1253

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.—Question, Lord R. Cecil (Marylebone, E.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1254

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—Questions, Mr. Rogers (Wiltshire, Devizes) and Mr. Leif Jones (Westmoreland, Appleby); Answers, Mr. John Burns .. 1254

TUBERCULOSIS.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1255

MOTOR CAR BILL.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1255

MUNICIPAL BORROWING POWERS.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1256

WEST BRIDGFORD PUBLIC WORKS.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1256

SPOTTED FEVER.—Question, Mr. Lupton; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1257

STOCKPORT MESSENGER'S DISMISSAL.—Question, Mr. Bowles; Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. Sydney Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) .. 1257

Feb. 25.] Page

POSTAL AND TELEGRAPHIC FACILITIES IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Morton (Sutherland); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1258

WELSH EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.—Questions, Lord R. Cecil; Answers, The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 1258

NEW EDUCATION BILL.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, Mr. McKenna .. 1259

BRITISH TRAWLERS AND THE NORWEGIAN FLAG.—Question, Mr. Morton; Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman), Dewsbury) 1259

ACTS ON FOOD ADULTERATION.—Question, Lord R. Cecil; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 1259

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1260

ELECTION EXPENDITURE.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money; Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1260

ELECTORAL POSTERS.—Questions, Mr. Chiozza Money and Mr. T. L. Corbett (Down, N.); Answers, Sir John Walton 1261

MEAT INSPECTION IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire) 1262

INSPECTION OF IRISH PORK IN SCOTLAND.—Question, Mr. Watt; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1262

FISHERY PROTECTION.—Questions, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty), Major Anstruther-Gray and Mr. Morton; Answers, Mr. Sinclair 1263

SCOTTISH SCHOOL BOARD FRANCHISE.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1263

PHYSICAL DETERIORATION.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair .. 1264

SCOTTISH COURT OF SESSIONS.—Question, Mr. Cleland (Glasgow, Bridgeton); Answer Mr. Sinclair 1264

ELLIOT JUNCTION RAILWAY ACCIDENT.—Question, Mr. Bell (Derby); Answer The Lord Advocate (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs) 1264

BALLAGHALINE PIER.—Questions, Mr. Halpin (Clare, W.), Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answers, The Attorney-General for Ireland (Mr. Cherry, Liverpool Exchange) 1265

DUNSHAUGHLIN LABOURERS ACT INQUIRY.—Questions, Mr. Sheehy (Meath, S.), Mr. William Redmond and Mr. T. L. Corbett; Answers, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1266

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION WORK.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy (Cavan, W.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1267

IRISH LAND SUB-COMMISSIONERS.—Question, Mr. Moore (Antrim, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1267

Feb. 25.]

Page

BAWNBOY UNION.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1268

KINVARA PIER.—Questions, Mr. Duffy (Galway, S.) and Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1268

NEW IRISH JUDGE.—Questions, Mr. Moore and Mr. J. MacVeagh (Down, S.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1269

DERNACRIEVE POST OFFICE.—Question, Mr. Vincent Kennedy; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1271

KINVARA POSTAL DELIVERY.—Question, Mr. Duffy; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1271

ROYAL ACADEMICIANS.—Question, Mr. Chiozza Money; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1272

THE CHANNEL TUNNEL.—Question, Mr. H. H. Marks (Kent, Thanet); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1272

AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED STATES—SALARY, ETC.—Question, Sir Howard Vincent; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1273

TOBACCO-GROWING IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. William Redmond; Answers, Mr. Asquith 1273

SUGAR BOUNTIES.—Question, Mr. Fell; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1274

SACCHARINE SMUGGLING.—Question, Mr. Rowlands (Kent, Dartford); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1274

ADJOURNMENT.—Mr. MOORE, Member for North Armagh, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "the action of his Majesty's present advisers in making an appointment of a Judgeship in the High Court of Justice in Ireland, which has been vacant for the last three years."

The pleasure of the House having been signified, the Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until a quarter past Eight this evening .. 1275

NEW BILLS.

Grocers' Licences (Scotland) Bill.—"To abolish Dealers' or Grocers' Licences in Scotland," presented by Mr. Rainy; supported by Mr. Crombie, Mr. Lamont, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Findlay, Mr. Gulland, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 62.] 1276

Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies) Bill.—"To apply the provisions of the Life Assurance Companies Acts, 1870 to 1872, to companies carrying on the business of insuring employers against liability to pay compensation or damages to workmen in their employment," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Herbert Samuel; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 63.] .. 1276

Feb. 25.] *Page*

Small Holdings (Scotland) Bill.—" To deal with Small Holdings in Scotland," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson ; supported by Sir Thomas Glen Coats and Sir Edward Tennant ; to be read a second time upon Monday, 18th March, and to be printed. [Bill 64.] 1276

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Motion made, and Question put, " That the Proceedings on going into Committee of Supply, if under consideration at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House) " —(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

The House divided :—Ayes, 277 ; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 18.) .. 1276

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Order for Committee read.
The Secretary of State for War (*Mr. Haldane, Haddington*) 1279

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

Mr Arnold Forster (*Croydon*) 1330
Sir Charles Dilke (*Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean*) 1339
Sir Howard Vincent (*Sheffield, Central*) 1344

And, it being a quarter past Eight of the Clock, and leave having been given to move the Adjournment of the House under Standing Order No 10, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

ADJOURNMENT (UNDER STANDING ORDER (No. 10) JUDGESHIP IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE IN IRELAND).

Mr. Moore (*Armagh, N.*) 1345
Viscount Castlereagh (*Maidstone*) 1353

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That this House do now adjourn." —(*Mr. Moore.*)

Mr. J, MacVeagh (*Down, S.*) 1355
Mr. Dillon (*Mayo, E.*) 1358
The Chief Secretary for Ireland (*Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.*) 1359
Mr. Walter Long (*Dublin, S.*) 1362

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place and claimed to move, " That the Question be now put."

Question put, " That the Question be now put."

The House divided :—Ayes, 250 ; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 19.)

Question put accordingly, " That this House do now adjourn."

The House divided :—Ayes, 63 ; Noes, 264. (Division List No. 20.)

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Postponed Proceeding on Question, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair," resumed.

Question again proposed.

Sir Howard Vincent 1371
Mr. Guest (*Cardiff District*) 1374
Mr. Wyndham (*Dover*) 1378
Mr. Haldane 1383
Mr. Arthur Henderson (*Durham, Barnard Castle*) 1386
Mr. Crooks (*Woolwich*) 1388

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out from the word 'That' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words, 'in the opinion of this House, a Committee should be appointed to consider and report upon how far the work of Arsenals and similar Government establishments can be kept more regular, so as to keep the machinery more fully employed and prevent frequent discharges of workmen.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Henderson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

Mr. Walters (*Sheffield, Brightside*) 1389
Mr. Haldane 1391
Mr. Keir Hardie (*Merthyr Tydvil*) 1392

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

And, it being half-past Eleven of the Clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at three minutes before Twelve o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS: TUESDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Electric Supply Corporation [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth

Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas [H.L.]; Midland Railway [H.L.]; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier [H.L.]. The same were ordered to lie on the Table. 1393

Baine's Name Bill [H.L.].—Presented and read 1^{a} 1393

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Henry Morgan Byrne, Barrister-at-Law, with Edith Laura Byrne, his now wife, and to enable him to marry again; and for other purposes. Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in and of the decree of the King's Bench Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland delivered (on oath); Bill read 1^{a}; and to be read 2^{a} on Monday the 11th of March next. The usual Orders made 1393

Bryne's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A witness ordered to attend on the Second Reading 1393

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramway Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^{a}, and committed 1393

North British Railway Bill [H.L.]; Oxford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection 1393

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^{a}, and committed 1393

Selsey Water and Gas Bill [H.L.].—Read 2^{a} (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection .. 1393

STANDING COMMITTEE.—Ordered, That a Standing Committee be appointed for the consideration of such Public Bills as may be committed to it by the House 1394

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1^{a}; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899) deemed to have been read 2^{a} (The Lord Hamilton of Dalzell) and reported from the Committee. (No. 6) 1394

NEW BILL.

Companies Act (Debentures and Debenture Stock) Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to amend the law in regard to Debentures and Debenture Stock. Was presented by the Lord Avebury; read 1 ; to be printed; and to be read 2^{a} on Tuesday next. (No. 7) 1394

Australian States Constitution Bill [H.L.] [SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

The Secretary of State for the Colonies (*The Earl of Elgin*) 1394

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2^{a}."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

The Marquess of Lansdowne 1396

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

Palace of Westminster.—The Earl Beauchamp added to the Select Committee 1396

Committee of Selection.—The Lords following, viz. :—

M. Ripon (*L. Privy Seal.*)
D. Bedford.
D. Northumberland.
M. Lansdowne.
E. Lauderdale.
E. Waldegrave.
E. Rosse.
E. Cawdor.
E. Camperdown.
V. Churchill.
L. Balfour.
L. Ribblesdale.
L. Denman.
L. Belper.
L. Brougham and Vaux.
L. Newton.

with the Chairman of Committees, were appointed a Committee to select and propose to the House the names of the Five Lords to form a Select Committee for the consideration of each opposed Private Bill 1396

Committee of Selection for the Standing Committee.—Appointed: the Lords following, with the Chairman of Committees, were named of the Committee :—

E. Liverpool (*L. Steward*).
E. Jersey.
E. Waldegrave.
V. Churchill.
L. Balfour.
L. Ribblesdale.
L. Granard (*E. Granard*).
L. Kintore. (*E. Kintore*).
L. Lawrence.

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS: TUESDAY, 26th FEBRUARY, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Private Bills (Standing Order 62 complied with).—Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz. :—Worthing Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time 1397

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899.—The Chairman of Ways and Means, reported, That, after conferring with the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords for the purpose of determining in which House of Parliament the respective Bills, under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, should be first considered, they had determined that the following Bills should originate in the House of Lords,

Feb. 26.] *Page*

viz. :—Buckhaven Dock ; Electric Supply Corporation ; General Accident, Fire, and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited ; Glasgow Corporation ; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water ; Royal Bank of Scotland.

Report to lie upon the Table.. 1397

Basingstoke Gas Bill ; Falmouth Gas Bill ; London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill ; Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill ; Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill.—Read a second time, and committed 1398

STANDING ORDERS.—Resolutions reported from the Select Committee.

"That, in the case of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill, petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the petition of 'Restaurant Keepers, etc.,' the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

"That, in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill, petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the petition of the 'Wanstead Urban District Council,' the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

"That, in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill, petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the petition of the 'Wanstead Urban District Council' the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

"That, in the case of the Barry Railway, petition for Bill the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with : That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, on the condition that so much of Clause 27 as proposes to authorise the Company to take and use the waters of the Rhydwaedlyd, Nant-cwm-Nsfydd and Nant-y-Briwnant brooks be struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

"That in the case of the Rawtenstall Corporation, petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, on the condition that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 10, 11, and 11A are struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with."

"That in the case of the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways, petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That in the case of the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers, petition for leave to deposit a petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to deposit their petition for Bill."

Resolutions agreed to 1398

PETITIONS.

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY.—Petitions against removal of academic functions; from Dublin and other places; and, Notting Hill and other places; to lie upon the Table 1399

WILLIAMS, THOMAS.—Petition of Thomas Williams, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table 1399

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN.—Return [presented 13th February]; to be printed. [No. 51.] 1399

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—Copy presented, of Report on the state of the Finances of the University made by the University Court, for the year 1905–6 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 52] .. 1400

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.—Copy presented, of Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh for the year 1905–6 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 53] 1400

TRADE REPORT (ANNUAL SERIES).—Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3746 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table 1400

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907–8.—Copy presented, of Estimates for Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending 31st March, 1908, together with a Copy of the Memorandum by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury relating thereto [by Command]; Referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 54] .. 1400

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.—Irish Land Commission (Account), Copy of Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General upon the Account of the Irish Land Commission for the year ended 31st March, 1906 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 55] 1400

CHURCH TEMPORALITIES (IRELAND).—Copy of Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General upon the Account of the Irish Land Commission in respect of Church Temporalities in Ireland for the year ended 31st March, 1906 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 56] 1400

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE TRIAL OF ELECTION PETITIONS, 1906–7.—Return ordered, "showing how the £3,598 voted on the Estimates for 1906–7 for the Trial of Election Petitions has been expended."—(*Mr. Morton*) 1400

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

COAL EXPENDITURE OF BRITISH AND FOREIGN NAVIES.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lancashire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson .. 1401

INCREASE OF PAY FOR CHARGEMEN IN DOCKYARDS.—Question, Mr. Bramsdon (Portsmouth); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1401

RENT FIXING APPLICATIONS.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1041

ARABIC LANGUAGE IN EGYPTIAN SCHOOLS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1402

THE EGYPTIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1402

CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO THE LATE MR. KNOX-BROWN.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson; Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1403

PAYMENT OF FORCED LABOURERS IN FIJI.—Question, Mr. T. F. Richards (Wolverhampton, W.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1404

AMENDMENT AND CONSOLIDATION OF POOR LAW STATUTES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD ORDERS.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. John Burns 1404

ISSUE AND PAYMENT OF POSTAL ORDERS IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field (Dublin, St. Patrick); Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1405

POST OFFICE SAVINGS BANK BUSINESS IN IRELAND AND GREAT BRITAIN.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1045

PROMOTION OF IRISH AND ENGLISH POSTAL OFFICIALS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1406

THE EXCHEQUER AND AUDIT DEPARTMENT.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1406

CUSTOMS AND EXCISE REVENUE IN GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1407

PROMOTION OF ABSTRACTORS (ASSISTANT CLERKS) TO THE SECOND DIVISION.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Runciman 1413

GRANT FOR BUILDING NEW SCHOOL AT LARNE.—Question, Mr. Dillon (Mayo, E.); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1413

CHILDREN AND PUBLIC HOUSES.—Question, Mr. G. White (Norfolk, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1414

DEATH FROM PHOSPHORUS POISONING.—Question, Sir C. Dilke (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1414

CROWN PROSECUTORS' JURY LISTS.—Question, Mr. Field; Answer, Mr. Cherry 1415

UNTENANTED LAND IN COUNTY ROSCOMMON.—Question, Mr. Haydon (Roscommon, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1416

PENSION OF HONORARY MAJOR W. S. PARR CAMPBELL, LATE SEAFORTH HIGHLANDERS.—Question, Mr. Watt (Glasgow College); Answer, Mr. Haldane .. 1417

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

PATROL SHIPS.—Questions, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.), Mr. A. Lee (Hampshire, Fareham) and Mr. Remnant (Finsbury, Holborn); Answers, The Secretary to the Admiralty (Mr. Edmund Robertson, Dundee) 1417

Page

THE CHANNEL FLEET.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1418

PORTSMOUTH ENTRANCE LOCK.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease (Darlington); Answer, Mr. Edmund Robertson 1418

X-RAY TUBES.—Question, Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty); Answer, The Secretary of State for War (Mr. Haldane, Haddington) 1419

TIDWORTH CAMP.—Question, Captain Faber (Hampshire, Andover); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1419

ARMY REORGANISATION.—Questions, Mr. Lyell (Dorset, E.) Mr. Arnold-Forster (Croydon), Captain Faber and Mr. Arthur Lee; Answers, Mr. Haldane .. 1420

WAR OFFICE LAND AT BEXHILL.—Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, Mr. Haldane 1421

NEPAUL OUTRAGE.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs); Answer, The Secretary of State for India (Mr. Morley, Montrose Burghs) .. 1421

NATIVE DEMONSTRATIONS AT LAHORE.—Questions, Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) and Major Anstruther-Gray; Answers, Mr. Morley 1421

MALWA OPIUM DUTY.—Question, Sir H. Cotton (Nottingham, E.); Answer, Mr. Morley 1422

POPPY CULTIVATION IN INDIA.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, Mr. Morley 1422

PRICE OF BENGAL OPIUM.—Question, Sir H. Cotton; Answer, Mr. Morley 1422

CHILD LABOUR IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Question, Captain Craig (Down, E.); Answer, The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1423

BRITISH CONCESSION AT CHINDE.—Question, Mr. Rees (Montgomery Boroughs); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1423

COLONIAL CONFERENCE.—Question, Mr. Bottomley (Hackney, S.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1424

FEMALE AND CHILD LABOUR IN THE NEW HEBRIDES.—Questions, Major Anstruther-Gray (St. Andrews Burghs) and Sir Gilbert Parker; Answer, Mr. Churchill 1424

BRITISH INDIANS IN NATAL AND THE FRANCHISE.—Question, Mr. Duncan Schwann (Cheshire, Hyde); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1425

DINIZULU.—Question, Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald (Leicester); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1426

MR. CHURCHILL AND THE WITWATERSRAND NATIVE LABOUR ASSOCIATION.—Question, Mr. Lyttelton (St. George's, Hanover Square); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1426

TRANSVAAL—REPATRIATION STATISTICS.—Question, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lanarkshire, N.W.); Answer, Mr. Churchill 1427

Feb. 26.] *Page*

NEW HEBRIDES—HOUSE ACCOMMODATION FOR LABOUR.—Questions, Mr. Ashley (Lancashire, Blackpool) and Sir Gilbert Parker; Answers, Mr. Churchill 1428

TREATY WITH SWEDEN AND NORWAY.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick) 1428

MACEDONIAN REFUGEES IN BULGARIA.—Question, Mr. Alden (Middlesex, Tottenham); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1428

BAGHDAD RAILWAY.—Question, Mr. Ashley; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 1429

CAIRO ELECTRIC AND GAS LIGHTING COMPANY.—Question, Mr. J. M. Robertson (Northumberland, Tyneside); Answer, Sir Edward Grey 1429

CONGO FREE STATE.—Question, Mr. Allen; Answer, Sir Edward Grey .. 1430

THE BUDGET.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Asquith, Fifeshire, E.) 1430

POSTAL EMPLOYEES AND INCOME TAX.—Question, Mr. William Rutherford (Liverpool, West Derby); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1430

CIVIL SERVANTS AND INCOME TAX.—Question, Mr. William Rutherford; Answer, Mr. Asquith 1431

APPRECIATION OF BRITISH SECURITIES.—Questions, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport), Sir F. Banbury (City of London) and Mr. Moore (Armagh, N.); Answers, Mr. Asquith 1431

DOG LICENCE EXEMPTION.—Question, Mr. Marnham (Surrey, Chertsey); Answer, Mr. Asquith 1432

MINE INSPECTORSHIP.—Question, Mr. Summerbell (Sunderland); Answer, The Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Gladstone, Leeds, W.) .. 1433

PUBLIC-HOUSE) CLOSING ON ELECTION DAYS.—Question, Mr. C. Roberts (Lincoln; Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1433

SUNDAY TRADING.—Question, Mr. Gulland (Dumfries, Burghs); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1434

FATALITIES IN CARNARVONSHIRE SLATE QUARRIES.—Question, Mr. Ellis Davies (Carnarvonshire, Eifion); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1434

BACUP CARTER'S HOURS OF LABOUR.—Question, Mr. Jowett (Bradford, W.); Answer, Mr. Gladstone 1435

COST OF THE POOR LAW DEPARTMENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD.—Question, Mr. Pike Pease; Answer, The President of the Local Government Board (Mr. John Burns, Battersea) 1436

LONDON CITY GUARDIANS AND DESTITUTE CHILDREN.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. John Burns 1437

Feb. 26.]

Page

Rona Light and Fog Signal.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, The President of the Board of Trade (Mr. Lloyd-George, Carnarvon Boroughs) 1437

Automatic Railway Couplings.—Question, Mr. Jowett; Answer, Mr. Lloyd-George 1438

Stockport Messenger's Grievance.—Question, Mr. Wardle (Stockport); Answer, The Postmaster-General (Mr. S. Buxton, Tower Hamlets, Poplar) 1438

Rex *v.* A. D. Turner. — Question, Mr. Courthope (Sussex, Rye); Answer, The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Runciman, Dewsbury) .. 1439

Whitburn Beach.—Question, Mr. Summerbell; Answer, Mr. Runciman .. 1439

Cost of North Sea Fisheries Investigation.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason (Orkney and Shetland); Answer, Mr. Runciman 1439

Farsley District Councillor's Dismissal.—Question, Mr. Jowett; Answer, The Attorney-General (Sir John Walton, Leeds, S.) 1440

North Sea Fisheries Investigation.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey (Somersetshire, S.) 1441

Marking of Hop Pockets.—Question, Mr. Courthope; Answer, Sir Edward Strachey 1441

Meals for Hungry School Children in Scotland.—Questions, Mr. Weir and Mr. Harold Cox (Preston); Answers, The Secretary for Scotland (Mr. Sinclair, (Forfarshire) 1442

Scottish School Teachers' Pensions.—Question, Mr. Weir; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1442

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.—Question, Major Anstruther-Gray; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1442

Kintail Poor Law Medical Officer.—Question, Mr. Cathcart Wason; Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1443

Scottish Church Commission.—Question, Mr. Eugene Wason (Clackmannan and Kinross); Answer, Mr. Sinclair 1443

Irish School Teachers' Character Certificates.—Question, Mr. Halpin Clare, W.); Answer, The Chief Secretary for Ireland (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.) 1444

Irish School Teachers' Salaries.—Questions, Mr. Halpin and Mr. Sloan (Belfast, S.); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1445

Mountshannon Estate, Limerick.—Questions, Mr. Lundon (Limerick, E.) and Mr. Joyce (Limerick); Answers, Mr. Birrell 1446

Adare Evicted Tenants.—Question, Mr. Lundon; Answer, Mr. Birrell .. 1446

Irish Relieving Officers.—Questions, Mr. Halpin and Mr. William Redmond (Clare, E.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1446

Feb. 26.] *Page*

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES IN IRELAND.—Questions, Mr. Joyce; Answers, Mr. Birrell 1447

OUT-RELIEF IN BELFAST.—Question, Mr. Sloan; Answer, Mr. Birrell 1447

FAIRHOLME ESTATE, CAHIR.—Question, Mr. Cullinan (Tipperary, S.); Answer, Mr. Birrell 1448

AMERICAN MAIL SERVICE—SORTING ARRANGEMENTS.—Questions, Captain Donelan (Cork, E.); Answers, Mr. Sydney Buxton 1449

MANHOOD SUFFRAGE.—Question, Mr. Chiozza-Money (Paddington, N.); Answer, The Prime Minister, First Lord of the Treasury (Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, Stirling Burghs) 1450

PROCEDURE OF THE HOUSE.—Question, Mr. Ellis (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1450

WRECK OF THE "BERLIN."—Question, Mr. Mackarness (Berkshire, Newbury); Answer, Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman 1450

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).—Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection:—That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following Fifteen Members, in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill: Lord Edmund Talbot, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Laurence Hardy, Sir John Kennaway, Sir William Brampton Gurdon, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Sir Gilbert Parker, Sir Lewis M'Iver, Mr. Hambro, Mr. Barker, Mr. Jesse Collings, Sir Andrew Torrance, Mr. Tomkinson, and Mr. Acland.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee:—That they had selected the following Seven Members to be the Panel to serve on Unopposed Bill Committees under Standing Order No. 109: Sir David Brynmor Jones, Mr. Paulton, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Beale, Mr. Hills, and Mr. Mooney.

Reports to lie upon the Table 1451

NEW BILLS.

Leasehold Enfranchisement Bill.—"To provide for the Enfranchisement of Leaseholds," presented by Mr. Maclean; supported by Mr. Evans, Mr. Ellis Griffith, Mr. Rowlands, Mr. Gooch, Mr. William Abraham (Rhondda), Mr. Simon, Mr. Hay Morggan, Mr. Brace, and Mr. Jenkins; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 12th March, and to be printed. [Bill 65] .. 1452

Public Health Bill.—"To amend the Public Health Acts," presented by Mr. John William Wilson; supported by Mr. Harmood-Banner, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Staveley-Hill, and Mr. Whitley; to be read a second time upon Monday, 18th March, and to be ptinted. [Bill 66] 1452

Pedlars Acts Amendment Bill.—"To amend the Pedlars Acts as regards persons for whom certificates shall not be required," presented by Mr. Stopford Brooke; supported by Mr. Charles Duncan, Mr. Gibbs, Sir George Kekewich, Mr. Walter Long, and Mr. William Redmond; and to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 27th March, and to be printed. [Bill 67] 1452

Feb. 26.] *Page*

Prisons (Ireland) Bill.—" To enable portion of a term of imprisonment in Ireland to be remitted as a reward for good conduct," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 68] 1452

Irish Land (No. 2) Bill.—" To make provision with respect to the disposal of mining rights under Section 13 of the Irish Land Act,1903, and to amend Section 54 of that Act," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 69] 1452

Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Bill.—" To make provision with respect to the application of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, to the county of Cork," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 70] 1453

Housing of the Working Classes, &c., Bill.—" To amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes, to amend the Law of Rating, and to establish Fair Rent Courts," presented by Mr. Bowerman; to be read a second time upon Monday 18th March, and to be printed. [Bill 71] .. 1453

Dogs (Protection) Bill.—" To prohibit experiments upon Dogs," presented by Mr. Ellis Griffith; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Sir Frederick Banbury, Colonel Lockwood, Colonel Sandys, Mr. Field, Mr. Tomkinson, Mr. Weir, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Clement Edwards, and Mr. MacNeill; To be read a second time upon Tuesday, 12th March, and to be printed. [Bill 72] 1453

Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill.—

The President of the Board of Education (Mr. McKenna, Monmouthshire, N.) 1453

Motion made, and Question proposed, " That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make provision for relieving the local education authority of the cost of giving Special Religious Instruction in Schools not provided by the authority."—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

Mr. A. J. Balfour (City of London) 1456

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 264; Noes, 109. (Division List No. 21.)

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. McKenna, Mr. Burns, and Mr. Lough.

Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill.—" To make provision for relieving the local education authority of the cost of giving Special Religious Instruction in schools not provided by the authority," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 73]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

Feb. 26.] Page

CIVIL SERVICES (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

CLASS V.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £32,470, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants in Aid."

Captain Craig (Down, E.) 1463

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £31,470, be granted for the said Service."—(*Captain Craig.*)

Mr. Mackarness (Berks, Newbury) 1466
Mr. Ashley (Lancs., Blackpool) 1472
The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.) 1475
Mr. Lyttelton (St. Georges, Hanover Square) 1480
Major Seely (Liverpool, Abercromby) 1484
Sir F. Banbury (City of London) 1486
Sir Gilbert Parker (Gravesend) 1488
Mr. J. Ward (Stoke-upon-Trent) 1491
Colonel Kenyon-Slaney (Shropshire, Newport) 1492
Mr. Churchill 1494
Mr. Bowles (Lambeth, Norwood) 1496

Mr. CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 312; Noes, 81. (Division List No. 22.)

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £31,470, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 78; Noes, 313. (Division List No. 23.)

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 303; Noes, 61. (Division List No. 24.)

CLASS VII.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £10,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and other Expenses of Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries.

Mr. Lyttelton 1511

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £9,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Lyttelton.*)

Mr. Churchill 1512
Mr. Ashley 1514

Mr. Lloyd-George rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 237; Noes, 48. (Division List No. 25.)

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £9,900, be granted for the said service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes 45; Noes, 238. (Division List No. 26.)

Mr. Lloyd-George claimed "That the original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 236; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 27.)

And, it being after a quarter past Eight of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

Ecclesiastical Assessments (Scotland.)

Mr. McCrae (Edinburgh, E.) 1525
Mr. Crombie (Kincardineshire) 1532

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the levying of compulsory assessments in Scotland for the purpose of defraying the cost of rebuilding or repairing churches or manses of a particular denomination is inequitable and unjust and ought to be abolished forthwith."—(*Mr. McCrae.*)

Sir Henry Craik (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) 1534
Mr. Pirie (Aberdeen W.) 1537
Mr. McCallum (Paisley) 1538
Mr. Mitchell-Thomson (Lancashire, N.W.) 1541
Mr. Munro Ferguson (Leith, Burghs) 1544
Mr. Cochrane (Ayreshire, N.) 1545
The Lord Advocate (Mr. Thomas Shaw, Hawick Burghs) 1547

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 177; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 28.)

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

End of Table of Contents to Vol. CLXIX.

VOLUME CLXIX.

ERRATA.

February 13th, 1907. Mr. C. E. Price's Speech.

In Col. 209, line 52, *for* "an estate" *read* "always taken an interest."

February 19th, 1907. Mr. McLaren's Speech.

In Col. 764, line 10, *for* "fair" *read* "free"; line 54, *for* "for" *read* "from."

In Col. 765, line 15, *for* "was" *read* "would be."

February 20th, 1907. Mr. O'Grady's Speech.

In Col. 928, line 32, *after* "workers" *insert* "in trade unions"; line 33, *for* "400,000" *read* "40,000."

In Col. 929, line 21, *for* "10,000" *read* "400,000"; line 24, *after* "estimate" *insert* "of the trade union returns"; line 56, *for* "400 or 300" *read* "400,000."

In Col. 932, lines 5 and 16, *for* "22,000,000" *read* "21,000,000."

February 29th, 1907. Mr. Mackarness' Speech.

In Col. 1468, line 43, down to Col. 1469, line 56, should be read as a quotation from Mr. Jamieson's Report.

In Vol. 156, Col. 104, *for* "Mr. R. J. Price," *read* "Mr. C. E. Price."

THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(*AUTHORISED EDITION*)

IN THE

SECOND SESSION OF THE *TWENTY-NINTH PARLIAMENT* OF THE UNITED
KINGDOM OF *GREAT BRITAIN* AND *IRELAND*, APPOINTED TO MEET
THE TWELFTH DAY OF FEBRUARY IN THE SEVENTH YEAR OF THE
REIGN OF

HIS MAJESTY KING EDWARD VII.

FIRST VOLUME OF SESSION 1907.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by a Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 12th February, 1907.

THE KING'S SPEECH.

The KING, being seated on the Throne, and the Commons being at the Bar with their SPEAKER, His Majesty was pleased to make a most gracious Speech to both Houses of Parliament, and then retired.

His Majesty's Speech was as follows:

" *My Lords, and Gentlemen:*

"I am happy to say that my relations with foreign Powers continue to be friendly, and I have no occasion to add to the full statement which was laid before you in December reciting a number of satisfactory Agreements recently concluded.

"The earthquake at Kingston adds one more to the series of calamities which Jamaica and my other Colonies in the West Indies have experienced. I regret the deplorable loss of life and destruction of property in an important city, and I have seen with satisfaction that the emergency has been met by the Governor and his officers with courage and devotion, and by the people with self-control.

"The occasion has called forth many proofs of practical goodwill from all parts of my Empire; and I recognise with sincere gratitude the sympathy shown by the people of the United States of America, and the assistance promptly offered by their naval authorities.

"The first visit of an Amir of Afghanistan to my Indian dominions for more than twenty years, and his active survey of leading features in Indian life, have been to me, and, as I understand, to the Amir himself, a source of much gratification, as tending to promote that right feeling which is even more important than formal compacts.

"In India, while firmly guarding the strength and unity of executive power unimpaired, I look forward to a steadfast effort to provide means of widening the base of peace, order, and good government among the vast populations committed to my charge.

"*Gentlemen of the House of Commons*:

"Estimates of the National Expenditure for the forthcoming financial year will in due course be laid before you. They have been framed with the object of effecting economies consistent with the efficient maintenance of the public service.

"*My Lords, and Gentlemen*:

"Serious questions affecting the working of our Parliamentary system have arisen from unfortunate differences between the two Houses. My Ministers have this important subject under consideration with a view to a solution of the difficulty.

"A measure of licensing reform will be introduced, with the object of effectively diminishing the evils which result from the sale and use of intoxicating liquors under present conditions.

"Proposals will be laid before you for more clearly defining the functions of the military forces of the Crown, both regular and auxiliary, and for the improvement of their organisation.

"Bills will be introduced dealing with the Holding and Valuation of land in Scotland.

"Your attention will be called to measures for further associating the people of Ireland with the management of their domestic affairs, and for otherwise improving the system of government in its administrative and financial aspects. Proposals will also be submitted for effecting a reform of University education in Ireland, whereby I trust that the difficulties which have so long retarded the development of higher education in that country may be removed.

"You will also be invited to consider proposals for the establishment of a Court of Criminal Appeal, for Regulating the Hours of Labour in Mines, for the Amendment of the Patent Laws, for improving the Law relating to the Valuation of Property in England and Wales, for enabling Women to serve on Local Bodies, for amending the Law affecting Small Holdings in England and Wales, and for the better Housing of the People.

"I commend all your arduous labours to the continued blessing of Almighty God."

SAT FIRST.

The Viscount Hampden sat first in Parliament after the death of his father.

ROLL OF THE LORDS.

Garter King of Arms attending, delivered at the Table (in the usual manner) a List of the Lords Temporal in the Second Session of the Twenty-ninth Parliament of the United Kingdom. The same was ordered to lie on the Table.

SELECT VESTRIES.

Bill, pro forma, read 1^a.

ADDRESS IN REPLY TO HIS MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS SPEECH.

*Lord CASTLETOWN: My Lords, I beg to move that an humble Address be presented to His Majesty in reply to the gracious Speech from the Throne. I am sure that I shall be giving expression to the feeling of the Whole House when I say how much we rejoice that Her Most Gracious Majesty has been able to accompany the King on this occasion, and that the recovery of the Princess Royal is making such progress that, unlike last year, we may trust that no sorrow in the Royal Family is present to darken the Opening of Parliament.

Your Lordships will note that the satisfactory state of affairs abroad is still maintained, and though such conditions may be due to the able management of Foreign Affairs by the present Secretary of State, I feel that I may, with all due deference and submission, say that the Empire is being guided and preserved in ways of peace and prosperity by the careful thought and wisdom of His Most Gracious Majesty, whose pacific sway in the councils of the world is now fully recognised. The Speech from the Throne last year referred to the Algeciras Conference, and Lord Northampton, the Mover of the Address, spoke of the confidence reposed in Sir Arthur Nicolson's conduct of those negotiations. The trust reposed in that able Minister has, I think, been fully justified, and the outcome of that Conference will, I hope, result in the amelioration of affairs in Morocco, while maintaining the concert of those Powers, Spain, France, and

Great Britain, as most interested in the question, and at the same time helping the Emperor of Morocco to improve the *status* and condition of the people under his rule.

With regard to the regulations adopted for the New Hebrides, one feels that it was necessary to evolve order out of the conditions obtaining in those Islands, and the Agreement with France, though perhaps not all that both countries would have desired, undoubtedly will be useful in its effects, and leaves future issues unimpaired. Several Boundary Commissions and Agreements have been ratified and carried to a successful issue between this country and Germany and between this country and France, while Agreements have been concluded with the French and Italian Governments for the maintenance of *status quo* in the Dominions of the Emperor Menelik in Abyssinia. All these diplomatic arrangements augur well for the future pacific progress of the Empire and the nations with whom we are in closest contact, and the fact that so many questions long out-standing have been settled is a proof and indication that foreign affairs are going on well and satisfactorily.

The terrible calamity in Jamaica has caused, as we are all aware, a deep feeling of horror and sorrow in these islands. The suddenness of the catastrophe and the loss of so many lives among our fellow subjects have filled this country with consternation and grief, while the fact that many prominent scientists, travellers and politicians were actually in Jamaica at the time, discussing the possibility of future developments for the benefit of the island, some of whom were killed, has rendered the earthquake at Kingston peculiarly deplorable. The calm and brave demeanour displayed by the whole population was noteworthy, while the authorities deserve the greatest praise for their efforts to save life and property under the most trying ordeal to which human nature can be subjected. Jamaica and this country are deeply indebted to the United States for the prompt and active assistance rendered at this awful moment. Such kindly thoughts and acts must accentuate in the long run the feeling of true relationship which exists, to my mind, between the great Republic of the West and this Empire.

The visit of the Ruler of Afghanistan to India is referred to in the Gracious Speech as having been most successful, and one that was likely to cement the friendship already existing between His Most Gracious Majesty and the Amir. In reading the report of that visit it is easy to see that His Majesty's representative, Lord Minto, an able Member of your Lordships' House, has done everything to make the sojourn of the Amir in India pleasant, interesting, and of value to both nations. One may venture to hope that the insight obtained by the Amir into the system of British Government in India, and his perception of the desire of all the authorities in that country, and notably of the Viceroy, for the welfare of our fellow countrymen of all races in that great Dependency, will indicate to him the higher motives of our Rule, while the intercourse he has held with Native Princes will imbue him with the knowledge and feeling that His Majesty and his advisers in this country desire more the well-being of India, the true liberty of her Princes, races, and creeds, ordered and arranged in accordance with civilisation, thought, and progress, than the greatest military conquests that were ever gained in the Asiatic world.

The profound care and forethought for the welfare of India and her people which is, I rejoice to say, now the keynote of our policy, is receiving the greatest attention from the Governor-General, and though there may have been local difficulties where so many interests—religious, financial, racial—must come into conflict, the steady sympathy of the authorities in India with native idiosyncrasies, and the strong support and careful guidance from home, have facilitated successful issue and are leading to the true and proper solution of the difficulties in question.

The next paragraph in the Most Gracious Speech from the Throne I approach with a feeling of grave responsibility. How long it has taken to build up the present Constitution we all know, the working of the Constitution we are thoroughly acquainted with, and yet we all realise that there are times when some change is necessary in its machinery, with the object of adjusting some one or other of its peculiarities. I use this word advisedly. It is a peculiarity that in the Second Chamber of this country—it does not obtain, so far as I am aware, in any other Second Chamber—a certain number, a large number, in fact, of hereditary legislators, who do not present themselves with regularity, or who attend very rarely through the session of Parliament, can come to this House, and, belonging as they do to one particular Party, can invalidate or destroy by their votes the legislation which may be desired by the majority of the electors of the country. Such, however, are the circumstances of the case. These difficulties or peculiarities were referred to in the Speech from the Throne when Parliament was prorogued, and it is undoubtedly the duty of His Majesty's Government to try and discover some means of relieving the deadlock caused in such cases, and thus permit the Constitution to work out its issues on the lines on which it was originally based.

My Lords, with regard to the next matter referred to in His Majesty's Speech, I am sure all the Members of your Lordships' House will agree with me in hoping that the proposal of the Minister for War which will be placed before you will be of the wide and useful character it portends to be .The Army has been, if I may say so, too long the shuttlecock of parties, and the despair of politicians. Perhaps if politicians had despaired more and thought less about them the forces of the Crown would have done better. But, be that as it may, we all know the position of affairs now, and any man who wishes well to his country will be only too glad to welcome a scheme well thought out, well arranged, and, we hope, eventually well administered. What I believe the country requires is a Regular Army, able to go anywhere at a moment's notice, fully equipped and prepared. The country also demands that the defences of these islands shall be fully maintained. For this power of offence and this means of defence the country will have to pay; but may not one ask that the thousands of young men who are neither soldiers nor sailors, who are not in either the Militia, Yeomanry or Volunteers, may be induced or urged to come forward and give their services for a short period of their existence to their native land? I believe the scheme to be produced will deal with these points in a broad and liberal-minded manner, and will organise the military forces now at the disposal of the country on comprehensive lines.

I will now pass, with your Lordships' permission, from the more general topics of the Speech from the Throne to the particular matters which, in the shape of Bills, will be brought before Parliament, and I will take them in the order in which they appear. The first measure is one which, I think, will appeal to your Lordships' consideration, and is in the nature of an extension of the original Crofters' Act, which, as I understand, has already worked well in Scotland. I confess that my own sympathies are very strongly in favour of any measure which will give the crofters and other small agriculturists and labourers a real stake in the land of their birth. The Report presented to Parliament in September, 1906, on the decline of agriculture in Great Britain bears eloquent testimony to the necessity of Parliamentary intervention, especially in Scotland. The map which accompanies it shows clearly where the life blood of the country is being drained, by emigration and migration, and the Report indicates where, and how the styptics which are necessary may be applied. Every day we are told there is a greater difficulty in getting agricultural labour, and every day fewer recruits of the healthy agricultural type enlist in our Army. What are the reasons for this? Emigration to the Colonies may be one. We cannot stop that, however, unless we make home life in the country as certain and lucrative as it is in far-off lands. Migration to the larger towns may be another reason. That we can only prevent by the same means, and by giving other inducements to happiness in rural social life. Both of these issues may be difficult to deal with, but all the witnesses in this Report advocate the necessity of giving the agricultural class, who are still, to my mind, the backbone of the country, the possibility of becoming, not only occupiers, but owners of the land they till.

I now come to the next measure, and it is, if I may say so, to myself and many of your Lordships who come from Ireland, the most important legislative proposal we have before us. I quote the words of His Majesty's Gracious Speech in dealing with this proposal, and I do not think any more comprehensive or clear statement could have been used—

> "Your attention will be called to measures for further associating the people of Ireland with the management of their domestic affairs, and for otherwise improving the system of government in its administrative and financial aspects."

For some years past we have heard talk in Ireland of "devolution." I cannot help thinking that this word has given rise to much difficulty, and I rejoice at last to see a lucid interpretation of what is required and what is proposed. If any long word were needed to explain the advisability of some change one might call it "evolution" from chaos, and not "devolution" from constitutional government.

Whenever an Irish problem crops up those who desire to examine it must first of all study the history of that country, and they will find the germ of the problem in some old form of maladministration. That the misgovernment of 400 years cannot be remedied in forty is a true saying. The Union which took place little more than a hundred years ago had, or should have had, as its corollary, a scheme of domestic administration in Irish affairs. Like most things in the history of Ireland, the corollary has been kept back till almost too late. It is proposed now, 100 years after the Union, to improve the system of government in Ireland in its administrative and financial aspect. I welcome those words, and would implore noble Lords from Ireland to think what value would have attached to those words had they been used and rendered effective in any Speech from the Throne some forty or fifty years ago, when they and their political classes were the dominant power in that country.

Under this proposal the administration may be regulated by the votes of the whole people of Ireland. Even if this be so, I am willing and prepared to accept their governance. For the last thirty or forty years one may safely say that both parties in this country have tried, and, I believe, tried honestly, to do justice to Ireland. But I think both parties had forgotten that Ireland, owing to circumstances I need not refer to, was no longer a pawn in the game of politics; that Ireland had slowly but surely grown up under the Union into a Nationality once more, though still an integral portion of the Empire. As a nation, and I say it without fear, Ireland is entitled to the administration of her domestic affairs and to a better system of such administration. As to her finances, we are told that the system of government in that aspect is also to be improved. I spoke in this House some years ago on the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland. At that time men of all classes and creeds in Ireland had joined a movement, of which I was a member, to ask the Imperial Parliament to investigate and deal in a liberal spirit with the financial losses which Ireland had incurred. Our pleadings for justice were, if I may say so, sneered at, and our arguments, though based on the Report and evidence of one of the ablest Commissions that has sat on this topic, were ignored. Under the circumstances I need hardly say how much I welcome this paragraph, and I only hope that when the time comes for that financial assistance to be given it will be rendered handsomely and generously, and at the same time equitably.

Before leaving this grave and serious question, may I appeal to the patriotism of my noble friends from Ireland who may distrust this measure, and ask them to be slow in rejecting it when it reaches this House? May I beg them to be jealous of the good name of their countrymen, and therefore confident in the honesty of their intentions to administer their domestic affairs for the good of all classes and creeds? I would ask them also to bear in mind that we have been told quite lately by a responsible Minister that "separation is unthinkable;" and I say that until and unless the whole aspect of the world is changed by some gigantic war, or by some cataclysm of nature, the separation of England and Ireland is politically and geographically impossible.

The proposal for effecting reform in University education in Ireland will, I trust, be carried into effect. As His Majesty's gracious Speech says, the difficulties which have so long retarded the development of higher education are at least capable of being removed, and though there may be some divergence of opinion as to the scheme which will give the line of least resistance—and I would ask His Majesty's Government to consider most carefully this point—I am convinced that all sections in Ireland will now join to obtain some settlement. I have taken a deep interest in this question, and though I speak as Chancellor of a University which may be shortly placed in the crucible, I still can say with confidence and certainty that it is essential to Ireland that a National University should be created, to minister in the most efficient manner to the wants of the laity, irrespective of creed, and especially to the majority in Ireland who are Catholics, and who are entitled to that system of higher education which is consistent with their religious views.

The remaining legislation for the session will, I hope, commend itself strongly to your Lordships. The different Bills proposed are not so much of a sensational character, but rather conduce to the social and economic advantage of all classes in the community. I am glad to see that it is proposed to ask women to give us the benefit of their advice and assistance on other local bodies besides those to which they are already accredited. The great success that they have achieved to my personal knowledge on boards of guardians, and the fine work they are doing among their poorer sisters in the workhouses and factories, make one sanguine that if they are given a still wider field of action the result will be equally valuable to the whole community.

My noble friend who follows me will go more into detail on the various measures enumerated, but I should like to touch upon two other Bills to which much importance must be attached—the Small Holdings Bill for England and Wales and the Bill for the better housing of the people. The Report of the very able and expert Committee presided over by my noble friend Lord Onslow has laid down the wisdom of further experiments in this direction. To carry out these experiments legislation is necessary. As I have for many years carefully studied the question in Ireland I am quite certain that an appreciable amount of benefit will be conferred on the rural and agricultural population by enlarging the power of obtaining land for small holdings and allotments. But I would most strongly urge that when those powers are sought they should be made as elastic as possible. A scheme that may suit one district may be impracticable or impossible in another. If the population of the country requires this enfranchisement, which is, I think, the case, do not tie it up with red tape and sealing wax and thus render it inoperative. It works admirably abroad, especially in relation to the improved communal system that obtains in Belgium, France, and Denmark, and also by the assistance of well-regulated people's banks. I am carrying out this scheme in my own county in Ireland, and up to now with complete success. I venture, therefore, to recommend the scheme most heartily to your Lordships. The housing of the people has a similar remedial aspect, and I do not think that political feeling should enter into this question at all, though it may be an inviting issue for the economist.

My Lords, I must apologise for the length of my speech, but the gravity of the legislative programme precluded my dealing with it more rapidly or perfunctorily. May I, before I sit down, say how deeply I deplore the loss to this House of one who has just passed away, Lord Goschen ? I could not add anything to what has been said of him in the public Press. But I may say I have lost a kind and helpful friend in days gone by ; this House has lost an able statesman and debater, and the State a tried and faithful servant to Crown and country. I have the honour to move.

THE EARL OF CHICHESTER: My Lords, in rising to second the Address I am very conscious of the disadvantages which must attend such an undertaking by one so inexperienced as myself—inexperienced not only in your Lordships' House, but also in any other Assembly which, though probably less considerate, would certainly be less formidable than your Lordships'. It is, therefore, not in any formal sense, but with all sincerity, that I ask your Lordships to extend to me a very liberal share of your forbearance and consideration.

I have been but a short time a Member of your Lordships' House, but long enough to realise to some extent the great loss this House has sustained by the death of Viscount Goschen. Others far better qualified to speak of him will do so to-night, but neither the sorrow caused by his death nor the pride taken in his great career can be confined to his contemporaries or those who had the privilege of his acquaintance.

My Lords, reference has been made in the gracious Speech to the terrible disaster which has recently occurred in Jamaica. Jamaica is one of our oldest colonies and united to us by no common ties—ties which I cannot help thinking are now drawn even closer than before, on our side at any rate, by our sympathy with sufferings which, however anxious we may be to alleviate by financial or other assistance, we were yet so powerless to avert. The past year has been notable for disasters on an unparalleled scale in the Western Hemisphere, both in North and South America, by which the towns of San Francisco and Valparaiso have been demolished; but in the case of Kingston another element was present, that of a coloured race living side by side with Europeans. We were proud to note the unselfish devotion with which the "white man's burden" was taken up, and the unflinching courage with which the responsibilities of Empire were borne by the authorities of Kingston. It is a pleasant task to try to express to that great friendly nation, the United States, our heart-felt thanks for the generous manner in which their naval forces came to the assistance of the inhabitants of Kingston in their need, a generosity made doubly precious by that characteristic which belongs pre-eminently to America, that of promptness.

Licensing reform is foreshadowed in the gracious Speech. Your Lordships will admit that this is a very difficult question, but I think the Act of two years ago could only be expected to lead to further legislation on the subject. I feel convinced that the Government will approach the matter with a broad-mindedness that will enable them to deal with it to the best public advantage without pressing unduly on a certain section of the community.

My Lords, with regard to the paragraph in the gracious Speech relating to the new Army Scheme, I do not think it is necessary for me to add anything to what Lord Castletown has already said, except to express the hope—I might almost say conviction—that when Mr. Haldane's scheme is made known in detail, we shall see that much has been done for the Volunteer force, and that at last they may have the satisfaction of feeling that they are an integral part of a great scheme for the defence of the country. With the increased facilities for rapid transit at sea we are deprived to a certain extent to-day of the protection which that bulwark provided in the past through what I may call the unkindly elements. To day, in an age of steamships which can accommodate 5,000 men, of guns whose range is half the width of the Channel, there may be no time for hasty preparation and no use for improvised forces. It is, therefore, most necessary that every unit of our Volunteer force should be allotted its share in defence and be maintained in a condition to repel a raid at short notice.

The first Bill mentioned in the gracious Speech is one to establish a Court of Criminal Appeal. This Bill is already well known to your Lordships. Although we pride ourselves in this country, and, we believe, with reason, on our administration of justice, it is yet a regrettable fact that on a few occasions in the past innocent persons have been convicted of grave criminal offences and unjust sentences served by the guiltless. One cannot help feeling that it is a curious state of affairs which allows a man to appeal against a decision involving the loss of £100, but does not allow him that appeal against a decision involving the loss of his liberty or even his life. The intense repugnance in the minds of all Englishmen to the possibility that any man should suffer punishment for a crime that he has not committed, has awakened a demand for the creation of a Court in which a reconsideration of a conviction, on a serious criminal charge, can take place.

We then turn to the Bill for regulating the hours of work in mines. Your Lordships are doubtless aware that a Bill to provide for an eight hours day in mines was read a second time in the House of Commons last May. That Bill proposed that the hours for labour in mines during 1907 should be nine, eight and a half in 1908, and eight hours in 1909. Considering the very arduous character of the work and the very depressing circumstances under which it is carried on, I do not think that this is an unreasonable proposal. It is held that the physical strength of the miner would be so much improved by the shorter hours and the longer period that he would spend in the light of day, that the output of coal would either remain the same or even increase, notwithstanding the shorter hours of work.

I believe, my Lords, that there is room for great improvement in the present Patent Laws. It is complained that the machinery of the present law is complicated and costly, and also that a large proportion of patents taken out in the United Kingdom are merely obstructive and are not worked in this country. If this Bill is successful in simplifying the working of these laws and giving greater facilities and encouragement to genuine invention, I feel sure it will be warmly welcomed in your Lordships' House.

I turn next to the Bill for extending the system of cheap trains for workmen. In connection with the London housing problem, the Royal Commission on Locomotion in their Report advise that in order to relieve overcrowding it is absolutely necessary that cheap workmen's trains should be extended in all directions instead of only in a few, as now obtains, and the Government——

*THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL (The Earl of CREWE): No. That Bill is not included.

THE EARL OF CHICHESTER: I believe, my Lords, that at the last moment that Bill was not included. The next Bill mentioned in the gracious Speech is one to amend the law relating to the valuation of land in England and Wales. I do not think anyone who is an owner of land will feel inclined to quarrel with a Bill which has as its object the equalisation of rateable values. The burdens borne by land owe half their vexatiousness to their variety, land in one part of the country bearing burdens unheard of in another. I cannot help expressing the pious hope that it may be found possible to relieve agricultural land of some of its present very heavy burden.

I do not think anyone who has worked on local bodies, such as boards of guardians, with women, and knows what excellent work they are capable of doing, will be sorry to hear that the Government intends to bring in a Bill to widen their sphere of usefulness. There is much work to be done by various local bodies which can only, from its very nature, be suitably performed by women. I cannot help feeling that the county councils and district councils will gain both in experience and in efficiency by the inclusion of women among their members.

My Lords, I think that very great satisfaction will be felt that a Small Holdings Bill is included in the gracious Speech. That satisfaction will, I believe, be two-fold: first, on account of the benefit to agriculture; and, secondly, on account of the benefit to the rural community. So much capital until recently engaged in agriculture has been either totally lost or else diverted into other channels that it is increasingly difficult to find tenants with sufficient capital to take the big farms as they were originally laid out. The consequence is, at any rate in certain parts of the country, that land which used to support several farmers, now only supports a very much smaller number, who work several farms together and adopt a mode of culture requiring the minimum of labour; or else the land is occupied entirely for pleasure purposes with no idea of getting a living out of it, and probably under these circumstances the occupier uses even still less labour.

But with regard to the rural community, one cannot help hoping that the effect of a Bill of the kind foreshadowed in the gracious Speech will be still more marked. Something must be done not only to check the rural depopulation, but what is perhaps more important still, to check the steady flow of all that is intelligent and full of life from the villages. Why is it, my Lords, that agriculture no longer attracts the best of our rural population? The answer always given is that they cannot resist the attraction of the great cities, the charm of varied amusements, the life and stir of the streets. That may be true, but I do not believe it is the whole truth. My Lords, if education has achieved anything it is this. It does implant in certain natures the desire to rise, and it is this desire to get on which drives the keener spirits out of agriculture, not necessarily into the towns, but into other pursuits where there is a chance of merit and energy getting to the top of the tree. In the part of England I know best such young men go on to the railway or into the police; but these are the men that we want to keep on the land, and it appears to me that a Bill making it possible for a man to acquire or lease a small amount of land to work himself is, in certain districts, at any rate, the way to bring this about.

The possibility of possessing land, however little, is dear to the heart of most Englishmen, and such possibility would make village life more full of hope and interest than it is to-day. There is much truth in the saying, "Give a man the freehold of a barren rock and he will turn it into a garden; grant a man the seven years' lease of a garden and he will turn it into a desert." Experiments have already been made in the direction of small holdings, and the success that these experiments have met with has led the Departmental Committee, of which Lord Onslow was the chairman, to recommend that further experiments of the same nature be made over a larger area.

The next Bill mentioned in the gracious Speech is one respecting the housing of the people. There is little doubt that fresh legislation is wanted on the subject. Much has been done in London, but the work of clearing away slums is very slow. Moreover, houses are continually being built under such conditions of overcrowding that, in the future, municipal authorities will be faced by the same problem unless strong measures are taken now. It is estimated that there are still over 250,000 people in London who are one-room dwellers, and what is true of London applies to most of our great cities. With regard to the housing question in rural neighbourhoods, the impossibility of building cottages to pay a reasonable return on the outlay will, without further legislation on the matter, make the difficulty of settling people in any number on the land an insuperable one. Considerable sums of money have been lent by the Treasury through the Public Works Loan Commissioners from time to time for the purpose of erecting workmen's dwellings; but your Lordships will recognise the difficulty there is at present in lending public money for the erection of cottages in new districts where the demand for labour may not be constant. The question of security in these cases becomes a serious one.

The entire absence of one topic from the gracious Speech is to be noted with the greatest satisfaction. There is, happily, no need for any reference to war in any part of the world. I cannot help contrasting the topics discussed to-day with those in the speech made by my grandfather just seventy-nine years ago in moving the Address. That speech contained regrets for battles in the past, accounts of wars that were then raging, and suggestions for warlike alliances in the future, and no mention of domestic legislation whatever. Under the present happier auspices perhaps it is not unreasonable to hope that much of the legislation foreshadowed in the gracious Speech may pass into law. My Lords, it only remains for me to thank you most warmly for your patience and forbearance, and formally to second the Address.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty in reply to the gracious Speech from the Throne."—(*Lord Castletown.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I am sure that noble Lords who sit on this side will permit me to express the satisfaction with which we listened to the well-chosen words in which both the noble Lords who have just addressed us referred to the loss which this House has sustained by the lamented death of Viscount Goschen. Lord Goschen brought to this House a rich fund of knowledge and experience of the most varied character. As a financier, as a political economist, his reputation stood high. He had a distinguished record as an administrator charged with the management of great public departments. He was not unknown in the field of diplomacy. If I might venture to single out one of his distinguishing characteristics, I should say that we respected him above all on account of the fearlessness and sincerity of his character—a fearlessness and sincerity which he never failed to display, whether he was fighting on the winning or on the losing side. We can ill afford to lose such a man. Only those who had the good fortune to know him as a friend and a colleague can say how wise a colleague or how true a friend they have lost.

My Lords, our veterans pass away from us one by one, and their places are taken by younger men, and on these occasions it is usual for the Government of the day to give an opportunity to those who have, so to speak, still to win their spurs in our debates. But we can scarcely regard my noble friend the mover of the Address in the light of a novice, for he has been for some years a Member of this House. Indeed, I think ten years have passed since the occasion to which he referred in his observations, when he endeavoured to persuade Parliament to effect a radical alteration in the financial relations between Great Britain and Ireland, and to establish an Irish Consolidated Fund to provide for Irish agriculture, Irish railways, and Irish industries. I am afraid he was not successful in softening the hard heart of my noble friend who was then Chancellor of the Exchequer. But I may, perhaps, congratulate him on having, at last, stumbled upon a softer spot. My noble friend and the noble Lord who followed him addressed your Lordships with much ability, and we listened with interest and pleasure to their speeches.

I come now to the gracious Speech. The references it contains to foreign affairs are extremely brief. We learn that the relations of his Majesty's Government with foreign Powers continue to be friendly. That is a refrain to which we cannot listen too often, and I congratulate the Government upon being able to find a place for it. In other respects the Speech is singularly meagre in its references to foreign affairs. That is to some extent no doubt explained by the reference which is made to the Speech delivered by His Majesty at the close of the last session of Parliament. In that Speech, it is quite true, we find a considerable catalogue of important international arrangements, to some of which my noble friend referred. I, for one, regard the conclusion of these international arrangements with feelings of the greatest satisfaction. They seem to me to enforce a principle which we cannot too constantly bear in mind. I mean the principle that, when great civilised Powers have, or conceive that they have, conflicting interests in remote parts of the world, they should endeavour to adjust those interests by a reasonable and above-board settlement rather than by resort to the old expedient of intriguing against one another and instigating third parties to make mischief for their supposed advantage. The Abyssinian agreement is one which seems to me to come within the category of such desirable conventions.

I may also say, as regards the agreement between Great Britain and France as to the New Hebrides, that I had always hoped to see such an agreement concluded, and that to my mind it was inevitable in present circumstances that it should be based upon the admission of a joint French and British protectorate over the islands. I do not believe that any of the other solutions proposed were within our reach. We have lately had a Blue-book upon this subject presented to us; and I cannot help observing that whatever we may think of the terms of the Convention, it is a matter for regret that it should have been concluded under circumstances which left the Australian and New Zealand Governments under the impression that they had not been adequately consulted in the matter. They are under the impression that the Convention was, so to speak, carried over their heads, and they say that virtually they were not aware of its terms until they were announced in the newspapers. My Lords, that is unfortunate, and I cannot help being sorry that more pains were not taken to avoid such a misunderstanding.

The Blue-book is an interesting one, and it is particularly interesting to me, because I find in the Anglo-French Convention an elaborate scheme of indentured labour for these islanders bearing a strong family resemblance to the much vilipended conventions and agreements which regulated Chinese labour in South Africa. The people of the New Hebrides certainly require all the protection we can give them. They are a very primitive people. I find in the Blue-book a description of their mode of life. They are so primitive that each little tribe lives in its own island or group of islands, and is described as having scarcely any dealings with their neighbours except when they require a neighbour as an article of food. It is quite clear that an untutored people of this description stand in need of a good deal of protection; and therefore it was with some surprise that I found the Australian and New Zealand Governments objecting to the terms of the Convention sent to them by His Majesty's Government upon the ground that its provisions were not an adequate deterrent to the unscrupulous methods of the recruiters. That is a striking resurrection of the old Chinese grievance in another locality.

Well, my Lords, if the gracious Speech says very little about foreign affairs, it says also very little about Colonial affairs. There is one Colonial subject which I confess I should have thought worthy of mention in the gracious Speech; I mean the fourth Colonial Conference which is to be held this year, and which certainly will not be the least important of the series. That is a somewhat remarkable omission, and I am inclined to say that we should have been rather glad to know a little more of the frame of mind in which His Majesty's Ministers are about to approach this Conference. We know that these Colonial Ministers are coming here with the hope of doing something to draw the different parts of the Empire more closely together. We know that the method which finds most favour with them is the encouragement of Imperial trade. Within the last few days some light has been thrown upon the manner in which this subject is regarded by His Majesty's Government. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies told his audience the other day that at the discussions of the Conference there was to be no restraint—I should have been very much surprised if there had been any restraint—and that it was to be open to the Colonial delegates most freely to put their case with all the force of argument they could command. He went on to say that he was in favour of this free discussion because it was calculated to bring about inter-Colonial free trade. But, my Lords, I do not know that it is necessary for the Colonial Ministers to meet here to make arrangements for inter-Colonial free trade, and I should have been rather glad to know whether all proposals for the establishment of freer trade within the Empire were to be ruled out of order when this Conference meets.

The Speech contains a reference to the great calamity which lately overtook Kingston, in Jamaica. The news of that disaster was received here with feelings of the deepest consternation and sympathy. There were incidents which for a moment threatened to be the cause of friction. Those incidents, I am glad to say, are now forgotten, and we think only of the self-control exhibited by the population, of the generous impulse which led the American naval authorities to offer their assistance, and of the devotion and energy exhibited by Sir Alexander Swettenham and the officers under him.

I pass for a moment to the reference to India. We look certainly in these days with no diminution of pride upon our Indian Empire. It may have lost something of the splendour and picturesqueness which used to make it so attractive, but we reflect with pleasure that there never was a time when the Indian Empire was based upon a more solid foundation of prosperity, or when the peoples included within it regarded our rule with a greater measure of acquiescence. But the gracious Speech contains a paragraph which is rather remarkably worded and perhaps a little enigmatical upon this subject. We are told that His Majesty, while firmly guarding the strength and unity of executive power unimpaired, looks forward to a steadfast effort to provide means of widening the base of peace, order and good government among the vast populations committed to his charge. Perhaps the noble Marquess will be able to tell us whether that is merely the expression of a general sentiment, or whether we are to regard the paragraph as portending new legislation of a far-reaching description and affecting the foundations of government in India.

Upon the visit of the Amir of Afghanistan to India we can sincerely congratulate His Majesty's Government. I am sure the noble Marquess will agree with me when I say I am very far indeed from regarding that visit as being a mere parade movement. On the contrary, I believe it to be a very significant visit, and I trust that what it does mean is that the Indian Government have succeeded at last in dispelling that feeling of suspicion with which undoubtedly for many years the ruler of Afghanistan regarded the Government of India. May I be permitted to add my congratulations to Lord Minto? Many of us who know him well have long recognised that he possesses qualities which we may be quite sure had a great deal to do with bringing about this successful visit and the good results which, I feel confident, that visit is likely to produce.

I now pass to that part of the Speech which deals with the work lying before Parliament during the session which we are beginning to-day; and I find, in the first place, words indicating plainly that His Majesty's Ministers have in view measures profoundly affecting the relations of this House with the other House of Parliament. The wording of the paragraph is grave, and I may perhaps add oracular—

> "My Ministers have this important subject under consideration with a view to a solution of the difficulty."

We are left in entire ignorance of the direction in which that solution is to be sought. One thing I will say, which is, that the tone of this sentence is in agreeable contrast to some of the references which have lately been made to the subject by Ministers and their friends. We have read speeches referring to this House in which the whole gamut of denunciation has been run through. Even the noble Earl opposite, the President of the Council, whom we usually regard as a model of correct Parliamentary deportment, has been affected by the contagion of some of those with whom he acts, and delivered the other day a speech in which, although the metaphor was a little confused, he suggested that somehow or other in the conduct of our business the House of Lords had been in the habit of using loaded dice and marked cards.

Even the late Chief Secretary for Ireland, an Ambassador designate, was unable to resist the temptation, and thought it necessary to fire a parting shot at this House of Parliament. My Lords, that was "the unkindest cut of all." I happened to stumble the other day upon a passage from a speech delivered by Mr. Bryce in the House of Commons not so many years ago, in which he pointed out that—

> "The object of having two Chambers is to secure, not that things shall always work smoothly between them, but that they shall frequently differ and provide the means of correcting such errors as either may commit."

We differed, and we tried our hands at correcting. Is it not hard that the Ambassador-elect, who, as we all know, is a high authority on constitutional subjects, should visit us with the chastisement of his indignation?

The Marquess of Lansdowne.

We are told that this revision of the Constitution is necessary because there have been "unfortunate differences between the two Houses." I do not think that it requires very much ingenuity to discover that the reference is to the rejection of the Plural Voting Bill last year, and to the fact that this House insisted upon its Amendments to the Education Bill, and that thereupon His Majesty's Government dropped that measure. I say that is a fair inference, because, to the best of my belief, when His Majesty's Ministers were making their appeal to the country at the time of the general election, authority to deal with the House of Lords did not form any part of the mandate for which they asked. Therefore, if it is now necessary to revise the Constitution in this manner, it must be because of something that has happened since the general election. Now, my Lords, all I have to say upon that, is that, if noble Lords opposite intend to found their indictment of the House of Lords upon our conduct in the last session of Parliament, we are perfectly ready to meet them in this House or outside of this House, upon that charge.

If noble Lords will look at the speech put into His Majesty's mouth at the end of last session, they will see that His Majesty's Ministers took credit for having passed in the course of the session ten or a dozen measures, to which they attached the greatest importance. How is it possible to represent the House of Lords as having obstructed the progress of business if that was the case? What were the two measures that did come to an untimely end? There was the Plural Voting Bill. Who has shed tears over the Plural Voting Bill? I am not aware of any mourning or lamentation over its fate. The people of this country understood perfectly well the reasons for which the House of Lords declined to pass the Plural Voting Bill. We threw it out because we regarded it as a cynical attempt to manipulate the Constitution for Party purposes. We were asked to deal with an anomaly which gave extra representation to members of the great Universities or to persons having a residence in one place and business premises in another. We were asked to deal with that so-called anomaly and to leave far greater and more flagrant anomalies, with which our representative system abounds, entirely untouched. I believe, if the House of Lords had passed that Bill, the feeling in the country would have been that we were unworthy of our place as a Chamber of revision.

I am not going to re-debate the Education Bill, but here, again, will your Lordships consider what would be the position at this moment if that Bill had become law? It is suggested that this House has stood between the people of the country and a settlement of the education question. The Bill afforded no settlement of the education controversy. Why, my Lords, if that Bill had became law every one of the 14,000 voluntary schools of this country would at this moment be fighting with its back to the wall. And not without reason, because the Minister for Education, in an unguarded moment, when he was discussing what this House had done in the way of providing for appeals against the action of the local authorities or of the Education Department, admitted that there would have probably been 7,000 appeals if that Bill had become law. That is to say, out of the 14,000 voluntary schools no less than half would have been threatened with extinction under a Bill which we were told was of a "live and let live" description, and likely to leave things very much as they were in the well-managed and well-equipped denominational schools.

Who was going to accept that Bill as a settlement of the education question? Not the Church of England! Not the Roman Catholics! Were the Nonconformists going to accept it as a settlement of the education question? Listen to the words of Mr. Hirst Hollowell spoken not long ago—

> "The Bill as amended by Lord Crewe would have broken down in the working."

Here again is Dr. Clifford. The Bill, he said, would have certainly broken up the Liberal Party, and repeated the disaster of 1870. Why, my Lords, noble Lords opposite ought to be grateful to us. And besides all this, by this time the British taxpayer would have found out that that apocryphal £1,000,000 which figured in the Bill was no better than a fraud, and would have been getting restless at the prospects of further imposts in order to provide for the expenses of the measure.

I cannot accept these *post mortem* testimonials to the merits of the Education Bill, and I say again if this House deserves censure and criticism it is not because of the two Bills it was instrumental in rejecting in the last session of Parliament. What I venture to say is, if we are to revise our Constitution, if we are to revise our Parliamentary procedure, let us do it upon broader grounds than that. We have no desire to shirk the discussion of this question. It has been raised in this House by some of its most brilliant and distinguished Members in past years. Your Lordships will not have forgotten the speeches delivered by Lord Rosebery on the subject. The late Lord Salisbury addressed himself to it on more than one occasion, and I believe it is an open secret that a noble friend of mine now in the House, Lord Newton, is ready to come forward with proposals of his own connected with an alteration in the procedure of the House of Lords. I say by all means let us discuss these questions, but I do venture to say this to noble Lords opposite—let them clear their minds, and let them determine what it is that they really want. Do they want to make this House more efficient, and therefore stronger? Or do they want, on the contrary, to degrade it, and to reduce it to the level, as has sometimes been said, of a mere debating society? It is because that question has not been fully looked in the face that, I believe, in past years, these well-meant attempts to improve the machinery of the House of Lords have not succeeded, for there are two distinct currents of thought bearing on the subject. There is the current of thought which favours what I may call a constructive policy—which desires that this House should, as Lord Rosebery used to put it, be made as efficient as possible. That current runs counter to the assailants of the House of Lords who desire anything rather than that the House should be made stronger and more efficient than it is at this moment. On the other hand the destructive critics—those who would like to see the privileges and authority of this House effaced and obliterated, are, I believe, destined to fail for one reason of the simplest character—because the people of this country know perfectly well that, whatever danger is to be apprehended from an unreformed House of Lords, it is nothing like the danger to be apprehended from an uncontrolled House of Commons. There was never, I believe, a moment when that feeling was more deeply rooted in the minds of the people of this country.

I turn for a moment to the legislative programme. The list of measures is a generous, if not a plethoric, list. One is tempted to compare it with the programme of last year. I think in the Speech of last year twelve or fourteen Bills were announced. But Parliament was not only invited to deal with those Bills: as the session went on, other measures, not originally put forward by His Majesty's Government, but put forward by private Members, were appropriated and added to the programme, with the result that during the short session in the autumn of last year this House was called upon to discuss in a very few weeks a number of first-rate measures which we had really no time to examine as fully as we might have desired. I should like to know whether the procedure of this year is to follow what I conceive to be the bad example of the procedure of last year. Noble Lords opposite complain of the manner in which we do our business. Then I say, give us a chance of doing our business as we would wish to do it, and do not, at the end of the session, thrust these undigested measures down our throats and then complain of us because we cannot swallow them all at once.

I know quite well that the noble Marquess opposite (the Marquess of Ripon) has got a rejoinder which he always produces when I make these entreaties to him. It is the old *tu quoque* argument. The *tu quoque* argument is never a convincing one, and in our school days it used to be summarily punished. The noble Marquess will tell me that we also were sinners in that respect. So we were. But there was this difference. In the first place, I do not think we had autumn sessions; and, in the second place, the congestion of business at the end of the session, if there was any, was due to the fact that we desired to pass Bills which we had ourselves introduced, which had been constantly before Parliament, and not Bills, so to speak, picked up, as the flotsam and the jetsam of the legislative tide, and appropriated by Ministers as a sort of afterthought.

We are promised a Bill dealing with the question of temperance; and it would be interesting to know, if His Majesty's Ministers will tell us, whether the law as it now stands is working badly, whether there has been any increase in drunkenness, or whether the liquor trade has been carried on in a discreditable manner. One hope I will express, that, whatever His Majesty's Ministers may determine to do, they will not place the conduct of the liquor trade of the country in the hands of local authorities. We have heard a good deal lately about municipal trading, and all I can say is that I should view with the utmost consternation any change which might have the effect of transferring the trade from those who at present conduct it to the local authorities.

With regard to the Army we are promised a Bill which can scarcely fail to be one of great importance. It was welcomed with enthusiasm by the noble Lord who spoke just now. We must defer our observations till we know what the proposals are. All I will venture to say is, that the Secretary of State for War has had, what every Minister newly entrusted with the charge of a Department has a right to claim, a sufficient amount of time to study the great problem. A year is a reasonable allowance; and I almost wish the new Chief Secretary for Ireland had been given a little longer time to study the two immensely important measures of which he has to accept the paternity. We shall be glad when we come to discuss the Army proposals to know something of the question of organisation, and we should like to know whether we have got an Army to organise, whether we have got or are getting the men, and whether we are providing for an adequate Reserve, because the Reserve must be the backbone of a short service Army; but I will not anticipate the discussion of these questions.

Then, after the House of Lords has been dealt with, after temperance has been dealt with, after Army reform has been dealt with, after two Scottish Bills, which promise to be extremely contentious, have been dealt with, then, at last, we come to Ireland. Well, there are two Bills dealing with Ireland, the Irish University Bill and another Bill, to which I will not venture to assign a title, but which is described in a somewhat enigmatical sentence to which I shall presently refer. As to the Irish University, I take on myself to say that we, all of us, agree with His Majesty's Ministers in desiring that, if possible, something should be done to improve the opportunities now afforded to His Majesty's Roman Catholic subjects in Ireland for obtaining higher education. We know how much they desire that education, and we all know that for one cause or another the opportunities offered have not been satisfactory to them in the past. I should rejoice to see a satisfactory solution of this difficult question; but I am not satisfied that the particular solution recommended by His Majesty's Ministers can be régarded as in all respects a desirable one.

I am bound to add that, like many other people, I was very much surprised by the manner in which the new measure was announced to the public by the outgoing Chief Secretary. My right hon. friend Mr. Bryce was at that time Ambassador-designate, and he made what I may call a second-reading speech within four days of the publication of the Report of the Commission, before the evidence could be made public, and long before his successor could have had sufficient time to study the question as it deserved to be studied. I think there are extenuating circumstances. I think the only explanation is this, that my right hon. friend, feeling that he was about to begin a long period during which he would be bound by the strict shackles of diplomatic propriety, could not resist the temptation to have one last fling and showing that he had not lived a year in Ireland for nothing. The scheme itself has, I am afraid, been received with something like dismay by the friends of Dublin University, and I cannot gather that it has been received with any great enthusiasm by those whom it was most designed to propitiate. I wish I could believe that it will receive that general amount of goodwill and support without which I do not think there is much chance of carrying a measure which will be really satisfactory and acceptable to the people of Ireland.

There remains a reference to a measure —I suppose I must call it of local government — which His Majesty's Ministers intend to introduce. Now, my noble friend who moved the Address told your Lordships, in reference to this particular sentence in the Speech, that he could not conceive any more comprehensive or clear statement of the policy of His Majesty's Government than was contained in the four lines which deal with this important question. I am afraid I must admit that this was not the impression which these four lines left on my mind or on the minds of those who sit near me; and I am afraid I must add my noble friend who moved the Address left us in just as vague and nebulous a state of mind as we were in before he addressed the House. This sentence may mean almost anything; it may mean very little, or it may mean a great deal. It is desired further to associate the people of Ireland with the management of their domestic affairs, and otherwise to improve the system of government in its administrative and financial aspects. Well, we are all in favour of improving local administration in Ireland, but I have been watching, and I dare say so have many others, with interest, the laborious efforts lately made by His Majesty's Ministers to reassure, on the one hand, those of their supporters who regard with the utmost aversion any project savouring of what is commonly described as Home Rule, and, on the other hand, their Irish supporters who have intimated with almost brutal frankness that nothing will content them but an Irish Parliament and an Irish executive responsible to that Parliament. Well, there is room for all these things within this vague and nebulous formula, and therefore I will not attempt at this stage to conjecture what is really intended by his Majesty's Ministers; but I take leave to say this. Our duty in the matter is plain; we must wait for the production of the measure, and we must see whether it is one which leaves the authority of the Imperial Parliament absolutely, both in theory and in practice, solid and unimpaired. That is the test by which we shall judge the measure of the Government, that is the test I hope we shall apply to it.

I have addressed your Lordships for an unusual length of time, and I will not take up more time by referring to the long list of measures with which the Speech concludes. An interesting side-light was thrown upon that list by an observation of the noble seconder, who appears to have been rather hardly used by those who supplied him with the materials for his speech. It is quite clear, from that chance admission, that the list, long as it is, was at one moment a good deal longer. It is particularly noticeable in the programme of legislation proposed by a Government deeply committed to measures of social improvement and reform, that the measures which merit this description, notably the Bills on small holdings and housing of the working classes, are at the extreme tail of the procession. What chances there are of such measures being reached within the limits of any session known to Parliament I leave to your Lordships to conjecture. All I will say in regard to these Bills is that if, as we may assume, they are likely to be introduced, I hope that some of them at all events will be introduced in this House, and that they will be laid before us under conditions which will allow us a decent opportunity of giving to them the consideration and attention which measures of such importance deserve.

*THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My Lords, I desire in the first place heartily to associate myself with my noble friend behind me and the noble Marquess in deploring the great loss this House has sustained by the death of Lord Goschen. My noble friend spoke of him as colleague and friend, and with my noble friend's account of the high qualities displayed in both respects I am in entire agreement. I served with Lord Goschen in Government, and I have watched him in Opposition, and heartily and entirely I desire to associate myself in an expression of the deep sense of the loss the House has sustained.

It is my pleasant duty to congratulate my noble friends behind me upon the able manner in which they discharged their task in moving and seconding the Address. My noble friend opposite was rather inclined, if I may use a common word, to chaff my noble friend Lord Castletown on account of his experience; he was not sufficiently inexperienced to satisfy the requirements of the noble Marquess, and no doubt any one who listened to my noble friend to-night would know he was not an inexperienced speaker. He, in an admirable manner, discharged the task entrusted to him. Of the seconder of the Motion it cannot be complained that he has had too much experience. This is the first time he has addressed the House, or any Assembly of the kind, and I am sure your Lordships will agree with me in acknowledging the able manner in which he had acquitted himself. The hope has often been expressed on these occasions by those who have followed the mover and seconder that those noble Lords having done so well on this occasion would often be heard again in our debates, but I am bound to say that my experience has been that that request has not often been complied with. I have known many noble Lords who have made excellent speeches in moving and seconding the Address and have rested on those laurels. I hope my noble friend Lord Chichester will not do anything of the kind, but will give us the advantage of hearing him again frequently during the course of our debates.

My noble friend complained of the paragraph in the King's Speech relating to foreign affairs as being meagre. There is a saying that happy is the people whose annals are dull, and I may say that happy is the position of the country when it is not necessary to enter into a long discussion as to its relations with other nations. We have only to say that our relations with foreign countries are highly satisfactory. I may say that a great deal of the meagreness complained of by the noble Marquess in the paragraph on the subject is due to my noble friend opposite himself for his conduct of foreign affairs.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: I made no complaint.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: And I do not think the noble Marquess will deny that in Sir Edward Grey he has a very able and competent successor. Then my noble friend touched on the New Hebrides, and he thought he had discovered some means by which he might return for a moment to the controversies upon Chinese labour. I do not think my noble friend or noble Lords opposite have ever really apprehended what was our true objection to the system of Chinese labour in South Africa. It was mainly against those parts of the Ordinance established for that purpose which related to the condition of the Chinese coolies outside the places where they worked; it was to the restrictions which were laid upon their general relations with the community that we chiefly objected. I do not think anything of that description will be found in the Ordinance to which my noble friend alluded just now.

As to the omission of a reference to the Colonial Conference in the King's Speech, the Government do not in the smallest degree underrate the importance of that Conference. It will discuss any relevant question that may come before it; and I am sure my noble friend behind me, the Secretary for the Colonies, is looking forward with the deepest interest to the assembling of the Conference and hopes to derive great benefits from it. My noble friend opposite also said something about the discussion by the Conference of free trade between all parts of the Empire. No doubt a real *Zollverein* would have an attraction. But that idea is not one that has ever been put forward in regard to our commercial relations with our Colonies by the Colonies. We know that a *Zollverein*, which means real free trade between all parts of the Empire, is the last thing which many of the Colonies would think of establishing.

I need not dwell upon the lamentable occurrence at Kingston. That port has the sympathy of everyone. But I cannot help expressing the deep regret with which I have learned that one of the victims of the disaster was Sir James Fergusson. By his death we have sustained the loss of one who for a long period of years and in many capacities served his Sovereign and his country well. We have heard with the keenest satisfaction of the manner in which the people of the United States came to our assistance at Kingston. That action has done much to bind still closer the ties which connect us with our kin across the Atlantic, and to them and their officers we owe deep gratitude.

My noble friend opposite naturally referred to the Indian paragraph in the Speech. It is one which we must all regard with very deep interest. In my judgment it is a great thing that the Amir of Afghanistan should not only have made a prolonged visit to India, but that he should have had opportunities of making himself thoroughly acquainted with the nature of our government, our relations with the chiefs, and the policy which we impartially pursue between all races and religions in that land.

There is an expression in the Speech which points to what seems to me to be one of the most important features of that visit—it records that the Amir has made an active survey of leading features in Indian life. I believe that what has occurred will tend to cement more closely our relations with the ruler of Afghanistan, and to produce those right feelings which, as the Speech says, are of even more importance than formal compacts. The arrangements made for the reception of the Amir by Lord Minto and the Government of India have been most satisfactory. Lord Minto has so conducted all those arrangements that I believe that in no single instance has any *contretemps* occurred.

As to the second paragraph of the Speech relating to India, the noble Marquess spoke of it as somewhat enigmatical. But in saying that he cannot have altogether recollected the important speech made by my right hon. friend Mr. Morley on the Indian Budget last year. My right hon. friend laid down, in language with which I desire to associate myself, the main principles of his Indian policy. He said that the Government quite as strongly in India as here were alive to the necessity of taking some steps to meet the almost universal desire for political advance. Now, what has been done? The Governor-General has entrusted to a Committee of his Executive Council the consideration of whether steps could be taken in the direction I have indicated. They have reported, and their conclusions were submitted to the Governor-General in full Council, and a despatch from Lord Minto submitting these conclusions to the Secretary of State is expected to reach Mr. Morley by the end of the present month or the beginning of next.

Now I come to the most important part of the Speech, the paragraph dealing with the relations between the two Houses. My noble friend took exception to that paragraph, considering that it implied an unfair attack on this House. We are also told that we have no mandate on this subject. I do not believe in mandates. Therefore I am not prepared to say to what extent the subject was discussed at the general election. But I assure my noble friend opposite that within the last twenty years there has been no period without constant criticism of this House. My noble friend quoted Mr. Bryce as having said that it was the business of the two Houses frequently to differ. That may be so. But one of the complaints that I hear very commonly made in regard to the relations of this House with the other House of Parliament is this—that when there is a Liberal Government in office they do very frequently differ, but when there is a Conservative Government in office they never differ at all. Whether that is exactly the function of a revising Chamber I will not undertake to say, but at all events it shows that Mr. Bryce's *dictum* is not always carried out by this House.

I do not know whether I need deal with the two questions which my noble friend spoke of, the Plural Voting Bill and the Education Bill. I do not think your Lordships did wisely or rightly in rejecting the Plural Voting Bill; I think it was a matter connected with the election of Members of the other House of Parliament, a matter which might have been dealt with by itself. I do not think it was wise on your Lordships' part to reject that measure. Still less do I think that what happened in regard to the Education Bill is a subject on which your Lordships can justly congratulate yourselves. I believe it would have been perfectly possible to come to a compromise on that Bill. The Education Bill was in itself from the first moment of its introduction a compromise; it became, to my great satisfaction, a more complete and full compromise in its final stage by the concessions which the Government were prepared to make; but your Lordships rejected it and would not accept those concessions, and the Bill failed. Now, is it unnatural, when that Bill had occupied so large a portion of the discussions of the other House, when on both sides of the education question there had been mutual concessions, and when there was a fair and reasonable prospect of a settlement, that that House should complain that the Bill was rejected as it was by this House? I will not go into details on the question. What I do say is this—this House does require reform. You do not deny it, you have declared to-night, quite in accordance with opinions many of you have entertained, that you are ready to consider proposals for its reform.

My noble friend Lord Newton, I understand, intends to raise that question?

LORD NEWTON: Yes.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: Then I reserve anything I may have to say upon it until my noble friend brings forward his proposal. But the reform of this House does not settle the whole difficulty. There are two things required. There is the reform of this House as a second Chamber, which I as an advocate of a second Chamber strongly desire to see; and there is the question how, when a difference arises between the two Houses, that difference is to be brought to a conclusion. That is the question with which, in the opinion of the Government, it is necessary now to deal, and in considering this question you must forgive me if I say quite plainly what is the difficulty.

The difficulty is this—that this House with its present Members and under its present constitution contains an overwhelming majority of one political Party. I do not care which Party it is; if it were the Liberal Party it would be just the same in my judgment. I daresay the Liberal Party, or any other Party, would do what you do if they had the power; I am not denying it, I am not casting any individual blame on your Lordships. But I do say this, that the broad circumstance of this House being in a large majority composed of the members of one Party is a great and dangerous evil; and it is that evil and its effects, with the check which it puts upon the legislation of the representatives of the people, it is that question which the Government proposes to consider.

The paragraph in the Speech tells you that the subject is under our consideration. I cannot enlighten my noble friend as to what the results of that consideration may be, but it is not a question to be dealt with hastily or without due consideration. It is a very grave and serious matter. These difficulties arose last Christmas. What would my noble friend have said if we had come down in the beginning of February with a cut and dried scheme? No, my Lords, we recognise the gravity of the question, and it is our duty to take the time that may be required in order to consider what proposals we shall submit to Parliament in regard to it.

With respect to the licensing proposals, the noble Marquess thinks that question was settled by the last Act. I cannot say I thought the debates in this House on the Bill showed that it was very likely to be a final settlement of the question. I doubt whether the most rev. Primate is quite convinced that that measure was of a character such as he desires. I believe it to be intensely capable of improvement, and that improvement we propose to embody in our Bill.

As to the Army proposals of the Secretary of State for War, I cannot, of course, anticipate the statement which he will make, I believe before very long, in another place. But I can say this—that it is a wide and full and complete scheme, dealing with our military forces in all their branches. I was a little surprised when my noble friend said there was a preliminary question which he would like to ask—namely: Have we an Army? My Lords, we have got the Army you left us.

THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: You made reductions.

*THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: It is in the hope of having a better Army that these proposals will be submitted. As to Ireland, I was, on the whole, pleasantly disappointed with the tone which my noble friend took. He says the paragraph is not clear. I am very sorry that the literary talent of the present Government is not sufficient to make its ideas clear to my noble friend. But at least one thing is quite clear from that paragraph—that, whatever may be the opinion of individual members of the Government, what is proposed is not an Irish Legislature with an Irish Government responsible to it, but measures for improving the system of administration and the financial regulations of Ireland. As to the University question, that has long been overdue for settlement. How long ago is it since Mr. Arthur Balfour went down to Manchester and told the people there that because the British Parliament would not settle this question he could hardly defend the principles of the Union? Mr. Balfour since then has been Prime Minister; he has not done anything in regard to this subject at all. It is a very difficult subject, I quite agree; but we hope and believe that the proposals which we shall make upon it will be of a nature, not to please everybody, because I do not think that is likely to be possible—and particularly improbable in Ireland—but to receive general though not universal support.

With regard to the Bills at the end of the Speech, some of them are of great importance. There is no more difficult question in connection with local taxation in this country than that of valuation. It has been the intention of not a few Governments to bring in a Valuation Bill, but none have ever faced the question. I hope it may be given to the energy and devotion of my right hon. friend Mr. John Burns to settle this most important and difficult question, which lies at the very root of local taxation. Then I rejoice greatly that we are going to have a Bill allowing women to sit on district councils and bodies of that kind. I have voted for such Bills in this House before now—they have always been thrown out by your Lordships—but I hope that this proposal may receive a more favourable consideration from you, because I think you will find, if you ask those who have had dealings with women on boards of guardians and other bodies on which women can sit, that their presence there is generally admitted to be of very great advantage.

As regards small holdings and the housing of the people, my noble friend seemed to think that because they happened to be named last they were regarded by the Government as of no importance. I myself regard them as of the very gravest importance. I think that, after the able Report of the Committee presided over by Lord Onslow, it would be impossible not to deal, and to deal, I hope, largely, with this question. I have seen it said that if a Bill of that sort—a real, honest, substantial Bill—is sent up to the House of Lords, this House will throw it out. I do not believe you will reject it. I believe that you will give to it a fair consideration, because nothing could be more advantageous to the happiness and welfare of the rural people of this country and also to the progress of agriculture than a wide measure of this kind.

On Question, Motion agreed to, *nemine dissentiente*, and ordered to be presented to His Majesty by the Lords with White Staves.

The Earl of Onslow—Appointed *nemine dissentiente* to take the Chair in all Committees of this House for the session.

Committee for Privileges—Appointed.

Committee for the Journals—Appointed.

Stoppages in the Streets—Order to prevent, renewed.

Appeal Committee—Appointed.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the following Papers, having been commanded to be presented to this House by His Majesty, had been so presented on the following dates by delivery to the Clerk of the Parliaments, pursuant to Standing Order No. CXI., viz.:

MALTA.

Further correspondence relating to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta (in continuation of [Cd. 3099.], September 1906). (22nd December.)

FISHERIES (IRELAND).

Report of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland on the sea and inland fisheries of Ireland, for the year 1904. Part II. Scientific Investigations. (28th December.)

COLONIES—I. ANNUAL.

No. 513. Basutoland (Report for 1905–1906).

No. 514. British Guiana (Report for 1905–1906). (28th December.)

No. 515. British Honduras (Report for 1905).

No. 516. Northern Nigeria (Report for 1905–1906). (11th January.)

No. 517. Bechuanaland Protectorate (Report for 1905–1906). (5th February.)

II. (MISCELLANEOUS).

No. 39. Jamaica (Report on Cayman Islands). (29th January.)

AFRICA, No. 2 (1906).

Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brussels, transmitting convention respecting liquors in Africa; signed at Brussels, 3rd November, 1906. (28th December.)

TRADE REPORTS: I. ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3739. Italy (Sardinia, 1904–1905.) (29th December.)

No. 3740. Regency of Tunis, 1905.

No. 3741. Finances of Denmark (1903–1904 and 1904–1905). (9th January.)

No. 3742. Ecuador (1905).

No. 3743. Portugal (Goa). (23rd January.)

II. MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

No. 656. Belgium (Precautions taken to counteract ankylostomiasis). (7th February.)

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.

Return of amount of opium consumed and the revenue derived therefrom in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States during the years 1896 to 1905. (31st December.)

TREATY SERIES.

No. 1. (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy respecting Abyssinia; signed at London, 13th December, 1906. (3rd January.)

No. 2. (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy, respecting the importation of arms and ammunition into Abyssinia; signed at London, 13th December, 1906. (10th January.)

No. 3. (1907).—Convention between the United Kingdom and France concerning the New Hebrides; signed in London, 20th October, 1906. (Ratifications exchanged at London, 9th January, 1906.) (19th January.)

No. 4. (1907).—General Act of the International Conference at Algeciras relating to the affairs of Morocco, 7th April, 1906. (Ratifications deposited at Madrid, 31st December, 1906.)

No. 5. (1907).—Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the frontier between the British and French Possessions from the Gulf of Guinea to the Niger, 19th October, 1906. (9th February.)

AUSTRALASIA.

Correspondence relating to the Convention with France, dated 20th October, 1906, respecting the New Hebrides. (4th January.)

WESTERN PACIFIC (NEW HEBRIDES).

Report on the Trade of the New ebrides for 1905. (4th January.)

IRISH LAND COMMISSION.

I. (Proceedings). — Return for the month of November, 1906. (4th January.)

II. Return of Advances made under the Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of May, 1906. (7th January.)

TROPICAL DISEASES RESEARCH FUND.

Report of the Advisory Committee for the Tropical Diseases Research Fund, for the year 1906. (9th January.)

EDUCATION RATES.

Report of the Departmental Committee on Education Rates, with appendices. (15th January.)

TRINITY COLLEGE, DUBLIN, AND THE UNIVERSITY OF DUBLIN (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Final Report of the Commissioners, with appendix. (Report, minutes of evidence, and documents). (17th January.)

JUDICIAL STATISTICS (ENGLAND AND WALES. 1905. (PART I. CRIMINAL STATISTICS.)

Statistics relating to criminal proceedings, police, coroners, prisons, reformatory and industrial schools, and criminal lunatics, for the year 1905. (19th January.)

ALIENS ACT, 1905.

Return of alien passengers brought to the United Kingdom from ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ended 31st December, 1906; together with the number of expulsion orders made during that period requiring aliens to leave the United Kingdom. (22nd January.)

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES.

I. Annual report on the distribution of grants for agricultural education and research in the year 1905–1906; with statements respecting the several colleges and institutions aided, and a summary of the agricultural instruction provided by county councils in 1905–1906, together with the expenditure on the same.

II. Statutory Rules and Orders, 1906 (Adulteration) (Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs). No. 944. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (General) Regulations, 1906, dated 27th December, 1906. No. 945. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Sampling, etc.) Regulations, 1906, dated 27th December, 1906. No. 946. Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Limits of Error) Regulations, 1906, dated 27th December, 1906. (22nd January.)

CONGESTION IN IRELAND (ROYAL COMMISSION).

Second Report of the Commissioners, with appendix. (Report, minutes of evidence, and documents relating thereto.) (23rd January.)

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

I. (Evening Schools). List of evening schools in England and Wales, for the school year ended 31st July, 1905. (17th January.)

II. Report of public inquiry (Section 23 (10), Education Act, 1902) in respect of the proposed provision of a new public elementary school in the parish of Llanasa (administrative county of Flint). (25th January.)

NAVY.

I. (Battle Practice). Result of battle practice in His Majesty's Fleet, 1906. (25th January.)

II. (Manœuvres). Report of 1906. (9th February.)

TUBERCULOSIS (HUMAN AND BOVINE (ROYAL COMMISSION)).

Second interim report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the relations of human and animal tuberculosis. (25th January.)

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP.

I. Supplement to the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1905. Return of persons employed in 1904 in workshops and laundries. (29th January.)

II. (Industrial Poisoning and Fatal Accidents). Preliminary tables (subject to correction) of cases of industrial poisoning and fatal accidents in factories, workshops, etc., during the year 1906. (7th February.)

RAILWAY SERVANTS (HOURS OF LABOUR).

Return in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of railway servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of July, 1906, on duty on the railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time, or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest. (31st January.)

VIVISECTION (ROYAL COMMISSION).

First report of the Commissioners, and minutes of evidence, October to December, 1906. (2nd February.)

INDIA (EXCISE).

Report of the Indian Excise Committee, 1905–1906. (2nd February.)

STATISTICS.

Statistical abstract for the British Empire in each year from 1891 to 1905. Third Number. (5th February.)

ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND.

Royal warrant, bearing date 10th September, 1906, amending the statutes of the university. (6th February.)

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACT, 1887.

Return of the number of eviction notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December, 1906. (6th February.)

EVICTIONS (IRELAND).

Return of evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 31st December, 1906. (7th February.)

RAILWAY ACCIDENTS.

Returns of accidents and casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several railway companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 30th September, 1906, in pursuance of the Regulation of Railways Act (1871), with reports of the inspecting officers, assistant inspecting officers, and sub-inspectors of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade, upon certain accidents which were inquired into. (7th February.)

COMMERCIAL, No. 1. (1907.)

International Sugar Commission, Autumn Session, 1906. Report of Proceedings (in continuation of "Commercial No. 5. (1906).") (9th February.)

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

Correspondence with the Treasury respecting the raising of Buenos Ayres to the rank of a First Class Mission, 1906. Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

LUNACY.

Return to the Lord Chancellor of number of visits made and number of patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ended 31st December, 1906.

Return to the Lord Chancellor of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses or upon any other account from 1st January to 31st December, 1906.

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE.

Rules of the Supreme Court (December) 1906.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890; CONSULAR SALARIES AND FEES ACT, 1891; FOREIGN MARRIAGE ACT, 1892.

Orders in Council, dated 21st December, 1906, entitled "The Consular Fees (General) Order in Council, 1906"; "The Japan (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906;" "The China and Corea (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906."

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Order in Council, dated 21st December, 1906, entitled "The Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906, No. 2."

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF ESSEX).

Order made by the council of the county of Essex altering the name of the Harlow Churchgate Street Polling District to that of the Harlow Polling District.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Licenses granted by His Majesty to Kate Ellen Hanton, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Home of Compassion, London, S.W.; Annie Skinner, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, London, N.W.

SUPERANNUATION (TREASURY MINUTES).

Dated 8th January 1907, granting retired allowance to Alfred Fred. Thomas Doubtfire, telegraphist, Central Telegraph Office, Post Office, under Section 2 of Superannuation Act, 1887.

Dated 5th February, 1907, granting a retired allowance to Mr. Charles Arthur Gulliver, late Chief clerk, Reading Post Office, under Section 2 of Superannuation Act, 1887.

Dated 30th January, 1907, declaring that Eldred Harbutt, artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield, was appointed without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

Dated 4th February, 1907, declaring that John Marcus Lawrenson, fitter lad, Royal Gun Factory, War Office, was appointed without a civil service certificate through inadvertence on the part of the head of his department.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN GUARANTEED LOAN OF 1855.

Account for the year to 31st December, 1906, prepared under the Act, showing the sums issued and applied for interest, as guaranteed by Her late Majesty, and for management of the Imperial Ottoman Guaranteed Loan of 1855, and also of the repayment in respect of advances under the said Act.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Regulation dated 31st December, 1906, made by the Treasury under Friendly Societies Act, 1896.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES (FEES).

Regulation dated 31st December, 1906, made by the Treasury under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

I. Order made by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 22nd December, 1906, providing for the early closing of certain shops in the burgh of Rutherglen.

II. Orders made by the following county councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the following districts.

County council of Glamogan, Penarth and Briton Ferry Urban Districts.

County council of Lancaster, Rishton Urban District.

County council of West Riding of Yorkshire, Elland Urban District and Bingley Urban District.

III. Orders made by the following borough councils, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops—

Borough council of Bacup.

Borough council of West Hartlepool.

Borough council of Beverley.

Borough council of Wallsend.

LOCAL TAXATION RETURNS (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1881.

Annual Local Taxation (Scotland) Returns, for the 1904–1905.

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS ACT, 1896; MOTOR-CAR, ACT, 1903.

Order by the Secretary for Scotland, dated 23rd January, 1907, prohibiting motor-car traffic on certain highways in the county of Stirling.

UNIVERSITIES (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1889.

Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of Glasgow to the Secretary for Scotland under the provisions of Section 30 of the Act, for the year 1905–1906.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.

Regulations for transfers of inebriates from one reformatory to another in Ireland.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND).

Amending regulations (organisation for unemployed) (Ireland), 1906.

PUBLIC RECORDS (KING'S BENCH, CROWN SIDE).

Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents belonging to the Crown side of the late Court of King's Bench and present King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Account of the amount of all Exchequer Bills and other Government securities which have been purchased by the Governor and Company of the Bank of England, or on which any sum or sums have been lent and advanced for the Public Service by the Governor and Company of the said Bank in the year ended 5th January, 1907; showing what amount of such bills before the making up of this account has been paid off and discharged, and the amount of such Exchequer Bills or other Government securities which was in the hands of the Governor and Company of the said Bank on the 5th day of January, 1907, aforesaid.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

MARGATE PIER AND HARBOUR COMPANY.

Report and statement of accounts for the year ended 5th April, 1906: Delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

House adjourned at a quarter before Seven o'clock to Thursday next, half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 12*th February*, 1907.

The House met at Two of the Clock.

Message to attend His Majesty.

The House went, and, being returned;

Mr. Speaker informed the House, That he had issued, during the Recess, Warrants for New Writs, for Derbyshire (North-East Division), in the room of Thomas Dolling Bolton, esquire, deceased.

For Banffshire, Alexander William Black, esquire, deceased.

For City of Perth, Robert Wallace, esquire, K.C., who hath accepted the office of Chairman of Quarter Sessions for the County of London.

NEW WRITS.

For County of Lincoln (North Lindsey or Brigg Division), in the room of Harold James Reckitt, esquire (Chiltern Hundreds).

For County of Monmouth (Northern Division), The Right Hon. Reginald McKenna, President of the Board of Education.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

ELECTIONS.

Ordered, That all Members who are returned for two or more places in any part of the United Kingdom do make their Election for which of the places they will serve, within one week after it shall appear that there is no question upon the Return for that place; and if anything shall come in question touching the Return or Election of any Member, he is to withdraw during the time the matter is in debate; and that all Members returned upon double Returns do withdraw till their Returns are determined.

Resolved, That no Peer of the Realm, except such Peers of Ireland as shall for the time being be actually elected, and shall not have declined to serve, for any county, city, or borough of Great Britain, hath any right to give his vote in the Election of any Member to serve in Parliament.

Resolved, That it is a high infringement of the liberties and privileges of the Commons of the United Kingdom for any Lord of Parliament, or other Peer or Prelate, not being a Peer of Ireland at the time elected, and not having declined to serve for any county, city, or borough of Great Britain, to concern himself in the election of Members to serve for the Commons in Parliament, except only any Peer of Ireland, at such Elections in Great Britain respectively where such Peer shall appear as a candidate, or by himself, or any others, be proposed to be elected; or for any Lord-Lieutenant or Governor of any county to avail himself of any authority derived from his Commission, to influence the Election of any Member to serve for the Commons in Parliament.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been elected or returned a Member of this House, or endeavoured so to be, by Bribery, or any other corrupt practices, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against all such persons as shall have been wilfully concerned in such Bribery or other corrupt practices.

WITNESSES.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath been tampering with any Witness, in respect of his evidence to be given to this House, or any Committee thereof, or directly or indirectly hath endeavoured to deter or hinder any person from appearing or giving evidence, the same is declared to be a high crime or misdemeanor; and this House will proceed with the utmost severity against such offender.

Resolved, That if it shall appear that any person hath given false evidence in any case before this House, or any Committee thereof, this House will proceed with the utmost severity against such offender.

METROPOLITAN POLICE.

Ordered, That the Commissioners of the Police of the Metropolis do take care that, during the Session of Parliament, the passages through the streets leading to this House be kept free and open, and that no obstruction be permitted to hinder the passage of Members to and from this House, and that no disorder be allowed in Westminster Hall, or in the passages leading to this House, during the Sitting of Parliament, and that there be no annoyance therein or thereabouts; and that the Serjeant at Arms attending this House do communicate this Order to the Commissioners aforesaid.

VOTES AND PROCEEDINGS.

Ordered, That the Votes and Proceedings of this House be printed, being first perused by Mr. Speaker; and that he do appoint the printing thereof; and that no person, but such as he shall appoint, do presume to print the same.

PRIVILEGES.

Ordered, That a Committee of Privileges be appointed.

OUTLAWRIES BILL.

"For the more effectual preventing Clandestine Outlawries," read the first time; to be read a second time.

JOURNAL.

Ordered, That the Journal of this House, from the end of the last Session to the end of the present Session, with an Index thereto, be printed.

Ordered, That the said Journal and Index be printed by the appointment and under the direction of Sir Courtenay Peregrine Ilbert, K.C.S.I., C.I.E., the Clerk of this House.

Ordered, That the said Journal and Index be printed by such person as shall be licensed by Mr. Speaker, and that no other person do presume to print the same.

PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS (RECESS).

The following Papers, presented by His Majesty's Command during the Recess, were delivered to the Librarian of the House of Commons during the Recess, pursuant to the Standing Order of the 14th August 1896:—

1. Trade Reports (Annual Series).—Copies of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Annual Series, Nos. 3739 to 3743.

2. Trade Reports (Miscellaneous Series).—Copy of Diplomatic and Consular Reports, Miscellaneous Series, No. 656.

3. Africa (No. 2, 1906).—Copy of Despatch from His Majesty's Minister at Brussels, transmitting Convention respecting Liquors in Africa. Signed at Brussels, 3rd November, 1906.

4. International Sugar Commission (Commercial, No. 1, 1907).—Copy of Report of Proceedings of the International Sugar Commission, Autumn Session, 1906.

5. Treaty Series (No. 1, 1907).—Copy of Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy respecting Abyssinia. Signed at London, 13th December 1906.

6. Treaty Series (No. 2, 1907).—Copy of Agreement between the United Kingdom, France, and Italy respecting the Importation of Arms and Ammunition into Abyssinia. Signed at London, 13th December 1906.

7. Treaty Series (No. 3, 1907).—Copy of Convention between the United Kingdom and France concerning the New Hebrides. Signed at London, 20th October 1906. Ratifications exchanged at London, 9th January 1907.

8. Treaty Series (No. 4, 1907).—Copy of General Act of the International Conference at Algeciras relating to the Affairs of Morocco. 7th April 1906. Ratifications deposited at Madrid, 31st December 1906.

9. Treaty Series (No. 5, 1907).—Copy of Agreement between the United Kingdom and France relative to the Frontier between the British and French Possessions from the Gulf of Guinea to the Niger. 19th October 1906.

10. Colonial Reports (Annual).—Copies of Reports Nos. 513 (Basutoland, Report for 1905–6), 514 (British Guiana, Report for 1905–6), 515 (British Honduras, Annual Report for 1905), 516 (Northern Nigeria, Report for 1905–6), 517 (Bechuanaland Protectorate, Report for 1905–6).

11. Colonial Reports (Miscellaneous).—Copy of Report No. 39 (Jamaica (Cayman Islands), Report on the Cayman Islands).

12. Tropical Diseases Research Fund.—Copy of Report of the Advisory Committee for the Tropical Diseases Research Fund for the year 1906.

13. Australasia.—Copy of Correspondence relating to the Convention with France, dated 20th October 1906, respecting the New Hebrides.

14. Straits Settlements. — Copy of Return of the Amount of Opium consumed and the Revenue derived therefrom in the Straits Settlements and the Federated Malay States during the years 1896 to 1905.

15. Western Pacific.—Copy of Report on the Trade of the New Hebrides for 1905.

16. Malta.—Copy of Further Correspondence relating to the holding of Protestant Mission Services at the Theatre Royal, Malta.

17. Factories and Workshops.—Copy of Supplement to the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1905. Return of Persons employed in 1904 in Workshops and Laundries.

18. Factory and Workshops Acts (Industrial Poisoning and Fatal Accidents).—Copy of preliminary Tables (subject to correction) of cases of Industrial Poisoning and Fatal Accidents in Factories, Workshops, etc., during the year 1906.

19. Tuberculosis (Human and Bovine) (Royal Commission).—Copy of Second Interim Report of the Commissioners appointed to inquire into the relations of Human and Animal Tuberculosis.

20. Trinity College, Dublin, and the University of Dublin (Royal Commission).—Copy of Final Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Documents).

21. Vivisection (Royal Commission).—Copy of First Report of the Commissioners and Minutes of Evidence. October to December 1906.

22. Congestion in Ireland (Royal Commission).—Copy of Second Report of the Commissioners, with Appendix (Report, Minutes of Evidence, and Documents relating thereto).

23. Judicial Statistics (England and Wales). — Copy of Judicial Statistics, Part I., relating to Criminal Proceedings, Police, Coroners, Prisons, Reformatory and Industrial Schools, and Criminal Lunatics for England and Wales for 1905.

24. Aliens Act, 1905.—Copy of Return of Alien Passengers brought to the United Kingdom from Ports in Europe or within the Mediterranean Sea during the three months ending 31st December 1906, together with the number of Expulsion Orders made during that period requiring Aliens to leave the United Kingdom.

25. Naval Manœuvres.—Copy of Report of the Naval Manœuvres of 1906.

26. Navy (Battle Practice).—Copy of Result of Battle Practice in His Majesty's Fleet, 1906.

27. Board of Agriculture and Fisheries (Distribution of Grants).—Copy of Annual Report on the Distribution of Grants for Agricultural Education and Research in the year 1905–6, etc.

28. Statistical Abstract (British Empire),—Copy of Statistical Abstract for the British Empire in each year from 1891 to 1905. Third Number.

29. Railway Servants (Hours of Labour),—Copy of Return, in pursuance of Section 4 of the Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, of Railway Servants of certain classes who were on one or more occasions during the month of July 1906 on duty on the Railways of the United Kingdom for more than twelve hours at a time; or who, after being on duty more than twelve hours, were allowed to resume work with less than nine hours rest.

30. Railway Accidents, — Copy of Returns of Accidents and Casualties as reported to the Board of Trade by the several Railway Companies in the United Kingdom during the three months ended 30th September 1906, together with Reports of the Inspecting Officers of the Railway Department to the Board of Trade upon certain Accidents which were inquired into.

31. Board of Education,—Copy of List of Evening Schools under the administration of the Board of Education for the school year ending 31st July 1905.

32. Board of Education,—Copy of Report of Public Inquiry (Section 23 (10), Education Act, 1902) in respect of the proposed provision of a new Public Elementary School in the Parish of Llanasa, Administrative County of Flint.

33. Education Rates,—Copy of Report of the Departmental Committee on Education Rates, together with Appendices.

34. Royal Irish Constabulary (Pensions),—Copy of Return showing the names of all Constabulary Officers now in receipt of Pensions, of all Head Constables, Sergeants, and Constables, and of all Widows and children to whom pensions have been granted since the Constabulary Estimate for 1906–7 was prepared, with the amount and date of Pension in each case.

35. Fisheries (Ireland),—Copy of Report on the Sea and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for 1904. Part II. Scientific Investigations.

36. Irish Land Commission (Proceedings),—Copy of Return of Proceedings of the Irish Land Commission during the month of November 1906.

37. Irish Land Commission,—Copy of Return of Advances made under The Irish Land Act, 1903, during the month of May 1906.

38. Royal University of Ireland,—Copy of Royal Warrant, dated 10th September 1906, amending the Statutes of the University.

39. Land Law (Ireland) Act, 1887 (Eviction Notices),—Copy of Return of Eviction Notices filed during the quarter ended 31st December 1906.

40. Evictions (Ireland), — Copy of Return of Evictions in Ireland for the quarter ended 31st December 1906.

Ordered, That the said Papers do lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

INEBRIATES ACT, 1898.

Copy presented, of Regulations for transfers of Inebriates from one Reformatory to another in Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

UNEMPLOYED WORKMEN ACT, 1905.

Copy presented, of Amending Regulations made by the Local Government Board for Ireland (Organisation for Unemployed (Ireland), 1906) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1884.

Copies presented, of Treasury Minutes declaring that the under-mentioned persons were appointed to the offices set against their names without a Civil Service Certificate through inadvertence on the part of the Heads of their Departments, viz.:—Edward Harbutt, Artificer, Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield; John Mowans Lawrenson, Fitter Lad, Royal Gun Factory, War Office; [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SUPERANNUATION ACT, 1887.

Copies presented, of Treasury Minutes granting a retired allowance to each of the following, viz.: Charles Arthur Gulliver, late Chief Clerk, Reading, Post Office; Alfred Fred Thomas Doubtfire, Telegraphist, Central Telegraph Office, Post Office [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

IMPERIAL OTTOMAN GUARANTEED LOAN OF 1855.

Copy presented, of Account for the year 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

TREASURY CHEST.

Account presented, for the year 1905–6, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 1.]

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1906.

Copies presented, of Statutory Rules and Orders, entitled (1) The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (General) Regulations of 1906; (2) The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Sampling, &c.) Regulations of 1906; (3) The Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs (Limits of Error) Regulations of 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of a Licence granted to Annie Skinner, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the London Female Preventive and Reformatory Institution, London, N.W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of a Licence granted to Kate Ellen Hanton, a convict under detention in Aylesbury Prison, permitting her to be at large on condition that she enter the Home of Compassion, London, S.W. [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POLLING DISTRICTS (COUNTY OF ESSEX).

Copy presented, of Order made by the County Council of the county of Essex, altering the name of the Harlow Churchgate Street Polling District to that of the Harlow Polling District [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copies presented, of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Beverley, Bacup, and Wallsend, of the County Borough of West Hartlepool, of the Councils of the counties of Glamorgan, Lancaster, and of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES.

Copy presented, of Regulation, dated 31st December, 1906, made by the Treasury, under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES (FEES).

Copy presented, of Regulation, dated 31st December, 1906, made by the Treasury, under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of the 21st December, 1906, entitled the Zanzibar Order in Council, 1906 (No. 2) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890, CONSULAR SALARIES AND FEES ACT, 1891, AND FOREIGN MARRIAGE ACT, 1892.

Copy presented, of Orders in Council of the 21st December, 1906, entitled (1) The Consular Fees (General) Order in Council, 1906; (2) The Japan (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906; (3) The China and Corea (Consular and Marriage Fees) Order in Council, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the early closing of certain Shops in the burgh of Rutherglen [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCOMOTIVES ON HIGHWAYS ACT, 1896, AND MOTOR CAR ACT, 1903.

Copy presented, of Order by the Secretary for Scotland prohibiting Motor Car traffic on certain Highways in the county of Stirling [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL TAXATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of the Annual Local Taxation Returns for Scotland for the year 1904–5 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 2.]

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

Copy presented, of Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the

University of Glasgow for 1905–6 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 3.]

BUENOS AYRES.

Copy presented, of Correspondence with the Treasury respecting the raising of Buenos Ayres to the rank of a First Class Mission [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRANSVAAL.

Copy presented, of Correspondence relating to legislation affecting Asiatics in the Transvaal [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COOLIE LABOUR.

Supplementary Return presented, relative thereto [Address 26th March, 1906; *Mr. Nield*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 4.]

GRENADA.

Copy presented, of Rules for the government of the Colonial Prisons [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Inquiry into Charities (County of Devon).—Further Return relative thereto [ordered 26th July, 1905; *Mr. Griffith-Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 5.]

Bank of England.—Accounts of Exchequer Bills and other Government Securities purchased, and Amount of Balances of Sums issued for the Payment of Dividends, etc., for the year ending 5th January, 1907 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 6.]

Lunacy.—Copy of Return to the Lord Chancellor of the number of Visits made and the number of Patients seen by the several Commissioners in Lunacy during the six months ending on the 31st December, 1906 [by Act].

Supreme Court (Rules).—Copy of Rules of the Supreme Court, dated December, 1906 [by Act].

Public Records (King's Bench (Crown Side)).—Copy of Schedule containing a list and particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the Crown Side of the late Court of King's Bench, and the present King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice, which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].

Lunacy.—Copy of Return of all sums received by the Visitors of Lunatics for travelling expenses, or upon any other account, from 1st January to 31st December, 1906 [by Act].

TRADE AND NAVIGATION.

Return ordered, "of Accounts relating to Trade and Navigation of the United Kingdom for each month during the year 1907."—(*Mr. Lloyd-George.*)

Return, in part, presented accordingly; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 7.]

NOTICES OF MOTION—GOVERNMENT BILLS.

MR. JOHN BURNS: A Bill to amend the Housing of the Working Classes Acts, 1890 to 1903, and of a Bill to amend the law relating to valuation.

MR. HALDANE: A Bill to provide for the reorganisation of certain forces of the Crown, and for the raising and maintenance of the territorial forces.

MR. GLADSTONE: A Bill to amend the Licensing Acts, 1828 to 1896.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: A Bill to amend the law relating to patents.

SIR JOHN WALTON: A Bill to amend the law respecting appeals in criminal cases.

KING'S SPEECH.

Mr. SPEAKER reported His Majesty's Speech, and read it to the House.

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

*MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe), in moving an Address in reply to the gracious Speech from the Throne, said: I must first express my appreciation of the honour conferred upon myself, my constituency and my county, by the selection of myself to perform this office. It is a subject of universal congratulation that the opening of this new session finds the Empire, and indeed the whole civilised world, in a state of peace. His Majesty's people know full well how much the King himself has contributed to that happy condition of affairs in which he is able to assure the House that his relations with foreign powers are completely satisfactory, thanks to His Majesty's personal influence so wisely used, by his good offices, and by his untiring devotion to the cause of international peace and goodwill. The House will associate itself most warmly with the expressions of sorrow at the recent calamity in Jamaica. As to the outlook for the session, the list of Bills to be presented is an unusually long one, but so was that of last year, which was practically accomplished with the addition of more than one private Member's Bill of considerable importance. What the fate of the Bills enumerated in the King's Speech may be must be subject to one qualification—a re-arrangement of the respective powers of the two Houses which will prevent measures carried through this House, with infinite labour and industry, being rendered futile by the other House, and which will ensure that the will of the people, as clearly expressed by their representatives in the House of Commons, shall prevail. It is to be hoped that such an arrangement may be carried through effectually and with as little friction as the nature of the controversy will allow. Licensing reform is likely to be hailed with satisfaction by a large number of people in this country, because although the steady diminution in the national drink bill is gladly recognised, we still spend something like £160,000,000 a year in this way—money spent very largely by the poorer classes of the community, and entailing an enormous national waste, with grievous consequences to the general physical, social, and moral qualities of the community. Hardly less important is the announcement that the land question will again be dealt with. Last year Parliament passed an important Bill to amend the system of land tenure, but that measure affected only one class. The new Bill will deal with a far more numerous and certainly a not less worthy class—the peasantry. For the most part, the peasantry of this country are landless, debarred and divorced from the soil they cultivate for others, and with the overcrowded population of our urban and suburban districts, it is high time some measure was passed by which those who are capable and willing may settle on the soil, on fair terms, and with due security of tenure. There was never a time in which the words of Goldsmith were truer than they are now:

> "Ill fares the land, to hastening ills a prey,
> Where wealth accumulates, and men decay."

That hardy annual known as the Eight Hours Bill, so often affirmed in principle by this House, has been taken up by the Government, and it is to be hoped that the mining community will give it general support. I cannot be expected to touch upon all the measures, but there is one which is of peculiar interest to me, and I must ask leave to say a few words upon it. It is the matter of Irish local government. For 106 years the Irish question has been before this House and has been pleaded eloquently by its Members, but it still remains unsolved. Fifty years ago the late Lord Salisbury, in asking why Ireland lagged so much behind England in prosperity, came to the conclusion that the one thing peculiar to Ireland was the government of England. For thirty-five years Parliament has been engaged almost every session upon Irish legislation. The great land question has been largely solved, thanks to the Act of the right hon. Member for Dover, although, perhaps, the working of that Act needs some acceleration. The time is propitious for a change, for Ireland is peaceful and crimeless. If the present proposals of the Government do not satisfy the aspirations of the Nationalist Party, I hope they will not look on them coldly, or, at any rate, oppose them. They are at least a step to something better. The experience of new powers, well and wisely used, will be our best credential with the British electorate with whom the casting vote must always rest. All that is wanted is a better union of classes and creeds in Ireland, and of that there are encouraging symptoms. I beg to move.

MR. RAINY (Kilmarnock Burghs): In rising to second the Motion of my hon. and gallant friend, may I ask the kindly indulgence of the House in circumstances as unlooked for as they are complimentary, but also, to a certain extent, embarrassing? With regard to our foreign relations, it has been said "that happy is the country which has no history:" let me add, and happy is this country in its foreign relations when all that needs to be said can be summed up in the few words of reference contained in His Majesty's Speech. No news in this department is good news. May I humbly on behalf of the whole House, associate myself with what the mover has said in expressing our loyal gratitude to His Majesty. I am sure we all join heartily in sympathy with those in Jamaica who have suffered such a terrible disaster at Kingston, a calamity which came upon them with such awful suddenness and was so appalling in its extent of loss of life and property. We are glad to know that the catastrophe has been faced with courage and vigour, and we are grateful for the expressions of sympathy received, and the help given, from all parts of the world, especially from the United States. I should like also to congratulate our fellow Members of the House who happened to be in Kingston at the time, but who, we are glad to see, are safe. We are in hearty sympathy with all action on the part of the Government of India that makes for a wider basis of peace, order, and good government, and are glad to be informed that the visit of the Amir has proved agreeable alike to the visitor and the visited. With regard to the working of our Parliamentary system, all that I would say is this: that so much depends upon it that the question is of first importance and is one in which both sides of the House have a common interest. The honourable traditions of this House, the Mother of Parliaments, is a matter of such grave importance that we ought all of us to approach the subject, not only with a sense of gravity and responsibility, but with an earnest desire to preserve untarnished and unimpaired that wonderful living voice of the British people which has existed for centuries in the British Houses of Parliament. I will not say anything about the temperance movement. Speaking as a Scottish Member I am glad to notice that we are to have for Scotland measures dealing with valuation and small holdings. They will be most gratefully welcomed by the people of that country. I wish to say with regard to Ireland, that if in any way the conceptions and aspirations of any part of our people can be brought into action under such conditions as would make them effective in the national life, it will be a great gain to the House and the Empire at large, for that principle lies at the very foundation of the British Empire. Any measure to extend the application of that principle should at least claim the respectful consideration of the House. I may say for myself, that I have never despaired of a solution of the Irish question, and I do not to-day. With regard to the remaining matters I only want to add this: I am glad to see that recognition is being made of the useful part that women can play in the public bodies of the country. I have never been able to understand the reason why they were originally excluded from these bodies, and I am glad to see that they are now to get their proper place. I think there is hardly any subject which could more usefully and more honourably occupy the attention of a democratic Parliament like this than the better housing of the working classes. I trust the result of the passing of a measure dealing with this question will be to bring happiness and comfort to many homes in this country. I take it as a great compliment to myself that I have been asked to address the House at this time. I do not conceal from myself that there were other reasons than personal ones for asking me to undertake this task, and I wish to express my most sincere and earnest thanks for the kindly thought that promoted it. I thank the House for the kindness with which they have listened to my remarks.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth:—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament"—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Mr. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): I desire to begin, as my predecessors have always begun, in the observations I have to make on this, the opening scene of the session, by offering my congratulations to the two hon. Gentlemen who have just addressed us. There have been occasions upon which that congratulation partook somewhat of a formal and perfunctory character; but I think I shall have the whole House with me when I say that never, as I think, has the difficult task been undertaken and carried through with better taste, more considerately, and in more strict conformity with the best traditions of this Assembly. The hon. Member who moved the Address is an old friend of a large number of us, on whichever side we sit. He has been long a Member of this Assembly. He is well acquainted with its traditions and its methods, and it certainly was no matter of surprise to me, though I wish it to be a matter of congratulation to him, that he so admirably discharged his task. With regard to the hon. Gentleman who seconded the Address, he is a newer Member of this House, but he has already shown how quickly he can absorb all that is best in our methods and how happily he can catch the tone of this Assembly. The hon. Gentleman, in the concluding words of his speech, made a reference which certainly every Scottish Member, and I, think, everybody in the House, would understand. It was made with admirable taste and propriety, if he will allow me to say so. He comes of a stock which has borne a great part in some of the most important domestic affairs of Scotland for two generations. The abilities of his father have been shown, indeed, upon a smaller field than is offered by this House, but all who had the opportunity of watching the late Dr. Rainy's actions, whether they agreed with him or whether they did not—and I was sometimes in the one position and sometimes in the other—uniformly admitted that had his lot been cast in the political sphere instead of in the not less stormy sphere of Scottish ecclesiastical politics, he would have made, not only upon his own country but on every citizen of the Empire, that impression which we, who have had the opportunity of judging, have carried away of his great powers and abilities. I have only one other observation to make upon the two speeches to which we have just listened. It is that they have followed precedent in approaching the programme of the Government in a spirit of happy optimism. I gather that both hon. Gentlemen are under the belief, the cheerful illusion, that the many excellent things promised in the King's Speech—excellent at all events in their opinion—are really going to be carried through in the course of the session. I think it possible, but I think it highly improbable. I do not say the Government were wrong to catalogue their aspirations in the concluding and other paragraphs of the King's Speech; but I am greatly mistaken if, in the course of the session, which will probably not be quite so long as the last one—[Cry of "Why not?"]—well, it does not rest with me, I am only venturing on a prophecy—I doubt whether all these aspirations will be embodied in law, or will even go up to that other place to which we have heard references in the speeches of the hon. Gentlemen opposite—delicate graceful references—and which we have had discussed in other speeches not so graceful from hon. Gentlemen on the Treasury Bench, and which is alluded to in the King's Speech. But before I come to what is in the Speech, I must say one word with regard to an amazing omission from the Speech.

The Speech deals with a great many subjects, of varying importance, but there is one subject of the greatest importance to which His Majesty's Ministers have not thought fit to advise His Majesty that reference should be made. I mean the Colonial Conference. These periodic Colonial Conferences are necessarily almost the most important, if not the most important, incident that can befall the Empire. They bring together, in a manner in which nothing else can bring them together, the different parts of the Empire. They have to discuss questions of vital importance, both for the United Kingdom and for the Colonies, which together make up our Empire. And, Sir, all these things have increased importance, I think, from the many controversies which have arisen lately around our relations with the Colonies. They have increased importance from the fact that the Colonies themselves are profoundly impressed with the importance of coming to arrangements with the Mother Country on subjects vital to the whole Empire. And how His Majesty's Government can look forward to meeting with the Prime Ministers of those Colonies within the next few weeks, how they can take into account the vast importance of the subjects which will come before the Conference, and yet make no reference to them in the Speech passes my understanding.

I do not dwell further upon it now. I doubt not that before these proceedings on the Address have come to a conclusion we shall hear a good deal more upon this point.

When I turn from what is not in the Speech to what is in the Speech, I find that the place of honour is given to a paragraph connected with the relations between the two Houses. The Government are apparently much distressed at the differences of opinion which have arisen in the last session, and which may, no doubt, again arise in future sessions, between the two Houses, and, according to the words in the Speech from the Throne, they are going to reflect on the situation. Well, I have no objection. In fact, if I may say so with all respect to the distinguished Gentlemen whom I see opposite me upon the front Bench, if they would think more and talk rather less upon this great constitutional issue, it would be better for all of us, and would certainly be better for them; because one result of that unlicensed freedom of speech upon these grave constitutional issues is that we have had two or three absolutely inconsistent views put forward by Members of the present Cabinet upon the proper way to deal with the House of Lords. There is, for example, the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, who is the most prolific and one of the most fiery orators upon this subject. His view is that this House is only wasting its time in dealing with any remedial measure or any important legislation until they have crushed the House of Lords. That is his view; but the view of the Home Secretary is quite different. His view is that this House cannot be better occupied than in passing measure after measure—excellent, good, popular measures — which will bring behind the present Government a measure of popular support, and that when these have, one after another, been rejected in another place, the Government should go to an indignant country and ask that so atrocious a state of things should be brought to an end. This is known as the policy of "filling up the cup." I do not pronounce—it is not for me really to offer—an opinion between these two quite inconsistent views of the proper method, outside quiet reflection and meditation, which the Government have got for dealing with the problem. I would only point out, with regard to the "filling up of the cup" remedy, that it has this inherent disadvantage. There can be no doubt, I think, that, judging by the past, as Parliaments grow older, as Bills are passed or not passed, cups are filled up. They are filled up, and they sometimes overflow, but the question is—Whose cup? I do not know that the answer to that question is quite as clear as the Secretary for Home Affairs would have us believe. I suppose that, when all the cups are filled up, the cup that will overflow first is the cup of unpopularity of the Government who have brought in all these wonderful Bills, and that not another House but this House is the one whose character the people will most desire to change. But, in the meanwhile, I am sure the Government cannot be better occupied than in reflecting on the situation, as they say they are doing, though, I confess, I do not think the only specimen we have of their reflections is very reassuring. By a happy accident we have been introduced into the inmost thoughts of one Member of the Government, not, I should have thought, the most violent of His Majesty's advisers, who, by accident, let the public into his confidence, and told how he meditated privately upon the situation, in the happy and unrestrained intercourse between friends. And this Gentleman, apparently, looks forward to a series of dissolutions, and, indeed, revolutions, before the constitutional issue is really to be settled. Now, I confess, this comes upon me rather as a shock. I never supposed that in the learned Attorney-General there was a Robespierre in disguise. I have always regarded him, rightly or wrongly, as one of the most reasonable, one of the most moderate, one of the most careful and constitutional Members of the present Administration. And when I find that this careful and moderate friend of the Constitution is talking of successive dissolutions, ending with a revolution—and I suppose the guillotine—in Parliament-square, I ask myself what the less moderate Members are thinking. What says the fiery spirit of the President of the Board of Trade? What says the Prime Minister, who, rightly or wrongly, is credited with vehement opinions on this matter? I hope that, in the meditations which are going on on the Treasury Bench, they will take a somewhat less lurid hue than

I gather from the surprise speech—the accidental utterances, the unpremeditated meditations—of the Attorney-General they seem likely to do. There is one point which I would very sincerely lay before Members of this House to whatever Party they belong, whether they are friends of my own, or hon. Gentlemen below the Gangway, or hon. Gentlemen opposite. All of them profess to be, and all of them, I believe, are, desirous of seeing a serious attempt made by the Government to carry out those schemes of social reform, which have been vaguely, though vehemently, adumbrated by them on the hustings and in this House. I know what I am going to say is controversial, but I think it is historically true. If hon. Gentlemen will study the Statute-book, and divide off the Bills which do deal with social reforms from those which do not, they will find that the majority of those which deal with social reform have been passed by Unionist and Conservative Governments, and not by Radicals. I do not at all suggest—and what is more, I do not believe—that that is because there is any lukewarmness on the other side with regard to social reform. Then why is it? I will tell the House why it is—and they know perfectly well. The reason is that as soon as the Radical Party get into power they divert their energies and their attention from social to political questions. They cannot resist the perpetual temptation of trying to modify the Constitution in some direction which they think favourable to their own interests. It has happened over and over again, and apparently it is going to happen again. You have as the first paragraph in this Speech dealing with domestic affairs a paragraph on the House of Lords. It is in the last sentence of the Speech that you have a reference to the housing of the working classes. And that does not mean that hon. Gentlemen opposite are indifferent—I am sure they are not indifferent—to the question of the housing of the working classes; but it does mean that they have always postponed—that they cannot resist the temptation of postponing—dealing with these social questions until they have framed the Constitution in such a manner that they think they can do anything that they desire. Sir, they cannot do that. It is not in their power to do it. And the idea that any modification of the Second Chamber is going to prevent that Second Chamber occasionally interfering with the views of the First Chamber is preposterous. And no amount of meditation, however able, by the philosophers who are meditating will result in framing a constitution of the two Chambers in which there will not be some conflict between the two. All that we can provide—and that ought to be provided, I quite agree—is that in the long run the people of this country—the people of this country—should decide what are to be the laws under which they live, as this House already decides what is to be the administration which is to conduct their affairs. The dilemma never can be got over as long as we choose to have a Second Chamber, meditate how we like upon the problem. And if your object is to make the Second Chamber the impeccable body which some theorists desire, the only result will be that you will strengthen it, and that in the collisions, if they should unhappily occur, as they must occasionally occur in every bi-cameral constitution, this House will find itself at a disadvantage. However, I have got other things to say to the House before I sit down, and I do not want to defer the reply of the right hon. Gentleman.

It would be absurd for me to avoid some reference to Irish matters in dealing with the Speech. Ireland is happy—specially happy—in having three Cabinet Ministers or ex-Cabinet Ministers, all occupied at the same time in dealing with her affairs. There is the Ambassador at Washington; there is the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade; and there is the Minister who has recently undertaken the difficult and responsible duty of governing Ireland. They have all spoken except the last. We have had speeches on Irish affairs from the outgoing Minister, we have had one speech at least from the Minister who has not yet got any official connection with Ireland; but the Minister who is responsible for Ireland has maintained a discreet silence. I am therefore driven to the first two for such views as I have been able to collect of the intentions of the Government. The President of the Board of Trade went to Belfast the other day and made a speech. He was perfectly entitled to go to Belfast, he was perfectly entitled to make a speech. I understand from the newspapers that his colleague thought it necessary to take very great precautions that that speech should be delivered with that security which I think should be the birthright of every citizen. I object to interference with speech wherever it takes place, and I belong to a Party which has probably suffered a good deal more from interruptions than any other. However, it appears that the right hon. Gentleman went to Belfast, and that the police were called out, and that a regiment or a company was armed with ball cartridge, and all the rest of it—I hope and believe it was a quite unnecessary precaution, but I dare say it was wise to be on the safe side. The President of the Board of Trade went in order to replant, to reafforest Liberalism, as I understand it, in the north of Ireland. It had to be reborn, and the infant so reborn, under the auspices of the right hon. Gentleman, was recradled with all these military honours. Having studied such reports as I could of his speech, I am quite unable to gather from it that he has in the least faced the difficulty which the Government must deal with, and which nascent Liberalism in Belfast will have to deal with, in attempting to solve that Irish problem which, I agree with the mover and seconder, is not insoluble, which I believe has been in the last five and twenty years in process of solution, which may not be solved in the lifetime of any here present, though my faith remains quite unchanged that solved it will ultimately be. But that it will be solved, or can be solved, by such manipulations of the administrative machinery of Ireland as is foreshadowed in the gracious Speech from the Throne, and in the speeches of Ministers, I do not believe; and I do not believe it for this reason, among others, that the President of the Board of Trade evidently has not seen where the true difficulty lies. If this manipulation of Irish administration is really to leave this House, not in technical supremacy, but in substantial and real supremacy over the affairs of Ireland, it will not content, and it cannot content, those Irishmen who regard an independent Parliament in Dublin, under the Crown, as the minimum of Irish demands, and who in large numbers go further, and not only regard Irish separation as being thinkable—which the right hon. Gentleman says it is not—but actually look forward to it with hope, with belief, and with undying aspiration. That is the first horn of the dilemma. The other horn is this, that if your manipulation of Irish administration is really going to be what the Prime Minister said it ought to be, viz., a step in the direction of an independent Parliament in Dublin——

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): No, no!

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: The right hon. Gentleman is quite right, I was not quoting him textually, I was quoting what I honestly believed to be the meaning of his speech. What he actually said was—and my right hon. friend behind me has given me the precise words—that he would advise hon. Members below the gangway to take anything which was consistent with, and which would lead up to, the larger policy. It never occurred to me until this moment that, when the Prime Minister talked of the larger policy, he did not mean that which we have been accustomed to call Home Rule ever since Mr. Gladstone brought forward his first Home Rule Bill, viz., an independent Parliament in Dublin—but that he meant something short of that, and that with that halfway House, leading to nowhere, the Irish Members and those whom they represent are going to be content. It is perfectly vain for this House to try to find something which is both Home Rule and not Home Rule. If it is either Home Rule or a step towards Home Rule, then I believe—I do not know what the President of the Board of Trade meant by the supremacy of this Parliament—that it is absolutely destructive of the supremacy of this Parliament in any substantial sense. It may leave it in a technical sense, in the sense in which we possess it over the Parliament of the Australian Commonwealth or of Canada, but it will not leave us any substantial control over Irish affairs. If, on the other hand, you mean to set up, either in one stage or two, anything which is to give the whole control of Irish affairs practically and substantially to an Irish Assembly, then, I say, you run directly counter to that great body of opinion in this country which is determined that no such interference with our Constitution is to be tolerated.

It is not only upon devolution that we have had utterances from Ministers, nor is it only upon devolution that the Gracious Speech from the Throne touches in connection with Ireland. I really am astounded at the course that the Government, or members of the Government, or ex-members of the Government have taken. The House is aware that I am one of those who desire to see University education extended to the non-Protestant and Catholic population of Ireland. I have always held that view; it is not held by all my friends; it is not held by all my friends on this Bench; but it has always been held by me, and it is held by me to this day. But everybody is also aware that the difficulties attending the solution of this question are of the most formidable character. Why should the inherent difficulties of this situation be doubled, trebled, quadrupled, by dragging in the fate and fortunes of Trinity College, Dublin? I cannot understand anything so mad as such a course. We should know nothing about the particular plans of the Government if it was not that Mr. Bryce, after he had accepted the Embassy at Washington, but while still, I suppose, technically Chief Secretary for Ireland, not only told us what the policy of the Government was, but told us that it was that policy or nothing. He put a pistol at the head of everybody interested in this question—at the head of the Nationalist Members, at the head of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Ireland, at the head of Trinity College, Dublin, and at the head of everybody in this House interested in this question, and said:—"This is the plan of the Government; take this or get nothing." I do not think that that is a proper course to have adopted, and it becomes really a scandal if you consider the relation in which the speech made by Mr. Bryce stands to the Report of the Commission which he appointed. That Commission reported on a Monday. On the Friday after, and before the evidence had appeared, Mr. Bryce, in the name of his colleagues, announced the unalterable determination of the Government, I think, and he had the courage to quote the Report of the Commission. That shows that he had not had time to look at the Report of the Commission, which was natural enough. The Government, whose name he took, I will not say in vain, but the Government in whose name he ventured to speak, could not have read that Report, and certainly had had no meeting of the Cabinet to discuss it. The majority of those who signed that Report were not in favour of the procedure of the Government, although Mr. Bryce suggested that they were. It is quite true that five out of the nine said that some day or other—four of them said "now," the fifth said "at some indefinite future"—a scheme resembling that which the Government proposes ought to be adopted. But there was not a majority of that Commission in favour of the course the Government are now adopting. Is it fair to the nine distinguished gentlemen, upon whom you have put all the ungrateful labour of sifting evidence on this side of the Channel and the other, to treat their Report in that way? Is it fair to treat the new Chief Secretary for Ireland in that way? I suppose the transition from the Board of Education to Ireland is promotion, and if it is, no man has deserved it more than the right hon. Gentleman. No man, in my experience at all events, has made greater strides in the favour of this House than did the right hon. Gentleman in his conduct of the very intricate measure which was entrusted to his charge last session. I do not know whether he cheerfully exchanges the problem of bringing in an Education Bill, with the doubtful support of the Nonconformists, for the other task of bringing in a Devolution Bill, with the doubtful support of the Nationalists. There is a certain resemblance between the two proceedings. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman will be more fortunate in the second than he was in the first. But I am confident that, whether fortunate in the issue or unfortunate, either from his point of view or mine, he will do nothing but gain fresh laurels so far as he is personally concerned, and will increase the reputation which he has already made in this House. But I think it is rather hard that the right hon. Gentleman should start on these difficult duties pledged by his predecessor. I think it was a cruel fate that he should suddenly become the heir to this irreducible minimum, to this unchangeable policy. As regards Mr. Bryce, I do not know that I do not rather admire his procedure. He retires to other duties from the fighting line, he shouts "No surrender" at the top of his voice, and he nails his flag to somebody else's mast—a most felicitous picture of courage and discretion. I should not have troubled the House with these observations upon the Government Bill for Irish University education if we had not had a First Reading speech upon it from an ex-Minister.

We have had another First Reading speech upon another Bill from another Minister. I allude to the ubiquitous President of the Board of Trade. He also has given his explanation and his account of a Bill which he proposes to introduce upon the Patent Laws. I only allude to that now because it has an interesting bearing upon a Resolution brought forward last session, but which the exigencies of public business prevented us from discussing with the fulness which I had hoped for. I mean the free trade Resolution. The Prime Minister will remember that his contributions to that debate were rather in the nature of ejaculations than arguments, and that in the end we never quite clearly made out what his view of free trade was. I have been forced to try and make out from the speeches of his colleagues his meaning, and they fill me with grave misgivings. I thought he held that particular form of free trade doctrine which has been constantly preached by the Cobden Club, and that his view was that you ought to consider nobody but the consumer, that as regards either the capitalist on the one hand or the wage-earner on the other their interests were best consulted by always thinking how commodities, services, and goods could be cheapest obtained by the consumer. I thought that was the right hon. Gentleman's view; but when I notice the legislation which the Government actually propose, I really do not know where I am. There is the President of the Board of Trade, who is going to bring in a Bill dealing with shipping which unquestionably throws the consumer, I will not say overboard, but certainly ignores the consumer altogether, and says that what you have to consider is the fair competition to which British shipowners are subjected; and, whether freights rise or do not rise, by seeing that this fair competition is preserved, his business is to see that there is no undue favouritism on the part of the foreign shipowner. I do not object to that, but how is it consistent with Cobden Club views about free trade? The right hon. Gentleman is going to propose that you should by legislation make it practically impossible for the foreign producer to produce where he wants to produce—namely, in his own country; you are going to compel him to bring over his capital and plant here to produce here, and that in order to prevent want of employment to our working men. An excellent object, but how is that consistent with the extreme and, as I think, extravagant doctrines of the Cobden Club, which I thought were those of the Prime Minister, although he has never given us an opportunity of actually learning it from his own lips. These are not the only perils. The Secretary of State for War made a speech to the foreign economists the other day which must have filled the right hon. Gentleman with disgust, if not dismay, because the Secretary of State for War told the foreign economists that free trade was not that absolute doctrine which the Cobden Club have always told us it was; it was not a doctrine independent of latitude and longitude, of climate or country; that free trade is good here and bad there. This country may properly adopt it, and another country reject it; it is all a question of consideration of the balance of motives, political considerations and fiscal considerations, and when you have balanced all these, then you may come no doubt to a conclusion which will not be the same in Germany as in England, in America as in Canada, but which will at all events suit the particular country. That is not free trade as we used to know it. But the cruellest cut of all was from the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, because in a recent speech at Manchester he told us that he looked with favour upon fiscal union between the Colonies and fiscal union obtained by preferential treatment between the Colonies. Those were, I thought, in the vocabulary of the Radical Party, "the sordid bonds of Empire," and it was with no small surprise that I read the hon. Gentleman's oration, which cannot, I think, have been agreeable to his official chiefs.

But the mention of the hon. Gentleman's name reminds me of another matter which I think more important than any I I have touched upon, although I do not think it has received any attention in the public Press or on the platform; and it is not referred to in the Speech from the

Throne. I refer to the Blue-book on the New Hebrides, which the Government have laid on the Table of the House. It is a most singular document. I will relate very briefly what happened. Just as we went out of office my right hon. friend the late Secretary for the Colonies had concurred in a suggestion that there should be a discussion between us and the French Government in regard to the New Hebrides, to consider whether some form of joint sovereignty might not be established in these islands, which have long been a source of difficulty between us and our Colonies on the one hand, and with the Government of France on the other. The Foreign Office under the present Government supported this inquiry. They carried it on for some time, and embodied the results in a very elaborate document. This document was sent out to New Zealand and Australia, the two Colonies concerned, who were informed that although the Imperial Government would not finally ratify the Convention without their consent, they did not think the Convention could really be altered, and it was to be either taken or left. The people of Australia and New Zealand were extremely indignant at that treatment, and I am not surprised. I say nothing about the contents of the agreement; but when you remember that both New Zealand and Australia pointed out to the home Government that this was a matter vitally affecting them, that they were never officially told it was under consideration, that they had never been consulted as to the details of the negotiations, and never asked for information about matters in regard to which they knew necessarily a great deal more than the home Government could possibly do—I think everybody will understand their feeling aggrieved. It seems to me that that was, to say the least, a most tactless performance on the part of the Government. They knew well enough that the difficulties of dealings between Downing-street and the self-governing Colonies are always considerable, and that the utmost good will and tact and mutual consideration are required on both sides if things are to go smoothly. Yet here this Government just escaped a quarrel with Natal through want of tact; and they have quarrelled with Australia and New Zealand equally through want of tact. [AN HON. MEMBER: And with Newfoundland.] That is a very difficult point and I am not going to meddle with it; but with regard to the other two matters my opinion is quite clear, and I do not think it will be differed from by any one who has studied the facts. But there is a more startling revelation, as I think, of Governmental procedure to be found in this Blue-book even than the want of tact, judgment, and consideration which it exhibits upon every page. Anybody glancing through the book at the objections taken by Australia to the Convention will be startled to find—at least, I was—that among other things Australia objects to certain terms with regard to indentured labour which are contained in the Convention. They say with regard to certain provisions that they are not sufficiently favourable to the labourer and are too favourable to the employer of indentured labour. I do not know that the provisions are wrong; I am not criticising their substance; I only say that the idea of the Government, over the heads of the Colonies, signing such a Convention with the French Government is the most amazing incident in modern politics. Then there is this sort of provision, that children may be indentured, but they must not be too small when indentured, and that the Commissioner is to be the judge of the proper size at which children of either sex may be taken as indentured labourers. Unmarried females may be taken, of course, by arrangement, with the consent of the head, not of the family, but of the tribe. Then you have to consider the terms of remuneration. It appears that there is the possibility of free contract, an arrangement natural enough between those who take the indentured labour and the indentured labourer, but in the event of there being no arrangement the wages are to be assumed to be 10s. a month. I suppose the wages may be less or more, but if there is no actual contract, then 10s. a month is what the Government think ought to be the proper wage for these indentured labourers. Then male and female, adult and child, are to work between sunrise and sunset, with an hour for their dinner. If they do not work between sunrise and sunset, or if they leave their employer, they are liable to various penalties, one of which is the obligatory extension of the term of their employment, and another is imprisonment for not more than a month. [AN HON.

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

MEMBER: Slavery.] To make the whole thing complete, moreover, these indentured labourers, at the end of their term, whether it be the original three years, or whether it be the three years increased as a penalty for non-conformation to the contract, are to be repatriated at the expense of their employers. Now, I want to know what we are to think of this amazing transaction. Here is a Government, which in 1895 gave its great authority to the system of indentured labour in British Guiana. Ten years later they won a general election by representing indentured labour as slavery, or forced labour; but a year has not passed over them before they set their seal again to a system of indentured labour which has all the attributes of the system in British Guiana, with the addition of compulsory repatriation. I have never been able to understand the compulsory repatriation argument. I have never been able to see why that which was not slavery in British Guiana because there was no compulsory repatriation became slavery in South Africa because there was to be compulsory repatriation. Let us hear no more, at least, of this compulsory repatriation as the mark and sign of servile labour now that you have carried it against the will of your Colonies. Without consulting them, you have yourselves signed a treaty with France which embodies indentured labour and attaches to it all the harsh conditions, or the conditions which are alleged to be harsh, which you have attacked in other cases, and which, to make the case complete, involves the compulsory repatriation of the indentured labourer. I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman is going to condescend to give me any explanation of his views on free trade or on the Transvaal, but I hope, at all events, he will give me his views on this aspect of slavery, or of labour under servile conditions. This is no departmental subject, no question which can escape the notice of the Prime Minister in the general rush of important business and under the heavy load of responsibility under which he labours. He must have known all about this. Two of his great offices—the Colonial and Foreign Offices—are concerned in it, and there must have been involved a controversy between these great offices and the Colonies of New Zealand and Australia. The Cabinet must have been aware of the fact that the Australian Colonies would not take the responsibility of assenting to this Convention, and the right hon. Gentleman must have looked at the reasons received for objecting in detail. He must have seen many of those reasons urged in respect of indentured labour, and if he did, then he and his colleagues in the Government are now responsible for that very policy against which they have won elections, against which they placarded every constituency in the kingdom, which they misrepresented in every constituency thoughout the land; and if there is a Government which sandwiches a successful election based on a "slavery cry" between two elaborate measures establishing indentured labour in different quarters of the globe under the shelter of the British flag, then that Government must stand disgraced and condemned.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: The right hon. Gentleman began by making the usual references to the speeches of the mover and seconder of the Address. They were the usual references, but they were made with unusual cordiality, with a grace and appositeness and a perfect truth which make me very reluctant to add anything in case I should take from the effect of the tribute which the right hon. Gentleman made to my hon. friends. My hon. friend the Member for Crewe is now an old Parliamentary, experienced hand; and we knew that we should have from him a speech not likely to give offence. We knew that it would be well pitched in tone, well knit in its structure, and expressive of the general feeling of the House. My hon. friend who followed him and seconded the Motion requires more introduction to the House; but I am entirely in accord with the right hon. Gentleman in the opinion he expressed that we had the probability and the prospect of an addition to the intellectual and debating power of the House in my hon. friend if he was, as we believe him to be, the worthy son of his father. His father, who was perhaps personally but little known to the bulk of the Members of this Assembly, was a man who was a statesman in a degree which is very seldom reached by those who are passing their lives on the Parliamentary field. I always fight shy of the word "statesman" and of the fashion which sometimes prevails of taking a statesmanlike view of a matter. But certainly, if there ever was a man who was calculated by tact, by ingenuity, by straightforwardness of character, by high talents, and by patriotic motives to deserve the name of statesman, it was the late Principal Rainy. I congratulate my hon. friend on the favourable impression he has made on the House, and I congratulate the House also on the proof that my hon. friends have given of the part they are able to take in our discussions.

The right hon. Gentleman has spoken with great good humour, with great acumen, and also with a good deal of penetration in finding out the weak points of our armour; and I see no fault to find with what he has said, except I think he makes me responsible for answering a good deal for which I have really little personal concern. I will, however, take the matters in detail which he has brought before the House. He began by speaking of that which was not in the Speech, leaving for after-consideration the things that are in the Speech. He said, "Is not this monstrous? Here is a Government at the head of a great Empire, and all the Premiers of the Empire are coming to a grand Conference in the course of a month or two, and no reference is made to it in the Speech; how can they be looking forward in a proper spirit to the advent of these representatives of the great Colonies when they do not breathe so much as a word about it in the Speech?" There have been two occasions before when the Colonial Premiers have come among us. There was the year 1897 and again in 1902; and if my memory serves me rightly, the right hon. Gentleman was responsible for the government of the country in both those years—at any rate, he had a large share of responsibility. But on neither of those occasions was any reference made in the Speech from the Throne. We are a conservative people on this side of the House. We give every consideration to precedent. The right hon. Gentleman is surrounded by Gentlemen who speak of themselves and their Party as if they had invented the Colonies, and they always speak of us, especially in public, when they are using their loudest tones, as men who have no community of feeling, sympathy, or interest with the Colonies; but when we found that he thought it proper to make no reference to the Colonies, of course we did not like to obtrude our shabby little share of interest in the matter when he had thought it proper to be silent. I think that the right hon. Gentleman will be satisfied with that explanation.

Putting aside for a moment the badinage and the banter in which the right hon. Gentleman so amiably indulged on many subjects, perhaps it will be more respectful to the House, and more in accordance with my duty to the House, if I enlarge a little, in as serious a tone as I can in the atmosphere to which we have been introduced—if I explain a little more fully than the paragraph in the Speech does, what we really mean by the reference to the differences between the two Houses. The right hon. Gentleman took hold of the word "consideration" and said that we were thinking, and apparently doing nothing else; and he said that we did very well because it was more useful for us to think than to speak. I quite agree with him, and I for my part endeavour to act on that counsel. I admit that this is the most important part of the Speech. I fully recognise the serious nature of the task to which we are not only addressing ourselves, but to which we shall, of course, in due time invite this House to address itself. What I ask the House to believe—and I think they will believe it—is that it is from no feeling of wounded vanity or irritation at being thwarted, even from no chagrin at losing the labours of so many weeks and months, or at the loss of what we thought excellent opportunities which will not in so full and adequate a manner recur with the same advantage—it is not on those grounds that we bring forward this great question. We are not unaccustomed to this kind of disappointment. We of the Liberal Party have been inured through long years to delays, rebuffs, and disappointments in the quarter from which these disappointments came. But we never lost heart. The Liberal Party always stood to its cause; and, apart from any other reason for doing so, there was this—that we have long since recognised in the Party opposite a certain plastic and elastic character of principle, and a certain adaptability of policy, which always leaves us the hope that they may themselves be found on the same side of a question as ourselves. But why, then, is this question raised now—this question of the relations of the two Houses, for that is the question which we wish to raise, and not the question of the constitution of the other House? That is another matter altogether. I shall endeavour to put the matter calmly and reasonably, always, no doubt, with a certain little salt of controversy, because we cannot, I daresay, dissociate ourselves from that. I believe it can be put in a way that will be agreed to by the great majority of men in all quarters of the House and of the country. What is it that has happened? Two months ago two great measures were destroyed—measures which had been demanded by the country and elaborated with infinite pains in this House. [OPPOSITION Cries of "No!" and MINISTERIAL cheers.] Two important measures were destroyed by the House of Lords, one of them by being so altered as to fail altogether to accomplish the main purpose for which it was introduced—a purpose which had the approval of the electors of this country. [OPPOSITION cries of "No!" and MINISTERIAL cheers]; and the other by the more summary process of contemptuous rejection. And these events did not lose anything in significance by the fact that they coincided with the acceptance by the other House of another measure which had also been demanded and largely supported in the country, though certainly not more than the other two, and which had been denounced in unequivocal terms by the Leaders of the Opposition in both Houses as containing subversive and iniquitous provisions. I cannot pretend that that came upon us entirely as a surprise, because of our past experience; but it did come as a novelty last year, because for twenty years back, during the main portion of that time, the House of Lords had been in a perfectly quiescent and acquiescent mood, ready, with the scantiest allowance of consideration—against which a certain feeble complaint was occasionally made, but without affecting the result — to accept and endorse whatever was offered to them by the Government of the day. Now the House of Lords is sometimes thought of — and if the theory was properly carried out it might act—as a sort of watch-dog, guarding the Statute-book from the intrusion of mischievous, or at any rate undesirable, measures. There is a certain well-known exclamation, not in itself a very wise one, "Thank God there is a House of Lords!" That really means, "Thank God the decision rests with people who are of my political opinions." But when the prolonged somnolence of this watch-dog is succeeded by a sudden access of bitter ferocity, one looks about for the cause. I really do not know which is the better ground of complaint—the somnolence or the ferocity. The answer will be according to the temperament and opinion of the individual. But the combination of the two, one coming after the other, is surely perfectly intolerable, and shows that there is some fatal vice in the working of the constitutional system. What is the cause of this sudden change? There is no mystery whatever about it. It all lies in Party feelings and Party considerations. When the King's Government is of a certain complexion, the House of Lords holds its hand, abdicates its powers and its use as a revising body, and ceases to operate in that capacity. But when the King's Government is of the opposite complexion, it becomes aggressive and unblushing in its aggressiveness; and this explains the political phenomena of last December. Is there any man listening to me in any part of the House who thinks that that is a satisfactory state of things? Am I not right in thinking that if we look at it calmly we shall all agree that, if we can do something to readjust the machinery in this respect, we shall be doing a service to our country? We have been so long accustomed to this state of things that we have got to consider it as the natural and inevitable condition of affairs. But it has been brought home to the country in the flagrant experience of this recent Session.

I can well understand that the right hon. Gentleman is eminently satisfied with the present arrangement. Where would the right hon. Gentleman be without the House of Lords? Where, after all, does he place his main dependence and his hopes? Not on the men who are elected to support him, but on the men who are born to support him. Here he is in a minority; and while I am ready to believe that the allegiance of those who sit round him and behind him is all that could be desired, still it is a great disadvantage to be in a minority; and he looks for and finds his compensation elsewhere. We know well what it is to be in a minority, and we looked elsewhere for our compensation. We looked to the mass of our supporters in the country, to whose staunchness and zeal we trusted, and not in vain. But the right hon. Gentleman need not go so far. He looks to the other end of the corridor, and there he finds in abundant measure exactly what he most misses here. He finds a permanent, large majority ready to follow him whithersoever he leads them, ready to obey his instructions, as we have seen, in the letter, and as far as they can in the spirit also. Sometimes also, with perfectly blunt candour, the state of the case as it really is is disclosed to us. Hon. Members will remember some strange words used by Lord Lansdowne in the House of Lords. What a naif disclosure it was! He spoke of being careful to join issue on ground which was "as favourable as possible to themselves." Not to the country; not to the cause which was fostered or favoured by this particular legislation, but to themselves. Trade might suffer from a measure, employers might be restricted in the use of their capital, the workmen could be led on to some slippery slope that might do them more harm than good and they might lose work, the law might be twisted and the assumption of equality before the law might be broken down—all these were very monstrous things, but their first duty was to see that their position was as favourable as possible to themselves. I do not know whether "themselves" meant the House of Lords or the Unionist Party. It is very much the same thing, but whichever it is, it expresses what was intended, but I did not expect that we should be told it so plainly. This must be a state of things which the right hon. Gentleman looks upon as not being without its advantages for a Party leader, fresh as he was last session from an unexampled catastrophe. It must be a source of satisfaction that for every legislator among his supporters who has been rejected he can lay his hands upon half a dozen just as good—whether hereditary or nominated, whether lay or ecclesiastical—to fill the thin ranks. A Constitution which allows him these solid comforts must commend itself to him. In dealing with this question—because we are now opening an enormous question—I do not underrate the magnitude and seriousness of the question—we ought to take care that we are not led into a labyrinth of constitutional fallacies, pedantries, or niceties; and in order to avoid that there is one truth which I would recommend every one to take hold of and to hold on to, and that will take him out of the maze. It is simply that I would have him remember what is the essential and inherent nature of the Constitution of this country. It is that it is representative. The representative body here is not, as it is in a country not so far away, looked upon as a safety valve, or at any rate as an outhouse, a *succursale* of the Constitution. The representative system and the representative Chamber here are the foundations of the Constitution, and I am not sure that I would not rather have a Constitution where the representative body was very much at the disposal or under the control of the Sovereign himself directly, than a Constitution so-called under which it was under the control of another Chamber. But ours ceases to be a representative system if the leader of a Party who has been overwhelmingly defeated by the popular voice at the polls is to remain, directly or indirectly, in supreme control of the legislation of the country. Let me say this. There is no need and no desire on my part to attribute to the House of Lords any unworthy or sinister motive or intention in the matter at all. They acted according to use and wont, the habits and practice of the past. But the events of last December raise this question in such a form that we cannot put it aside; we cannot escape it, and they raised it by bringing into juxtaposition and into glaring contrast the constitutional rights of the electors on the one side and the asserted privileges of the Peers on the other. Sir, the Government does not shrink from this problem, and I am not sure whether, when we get to close quarters, it may not turn out to be easier of solution than at first sight it appears to be. But at all events settled it must be. The present state of things is discreditable; it is dangerous; it is demoralising. It is demoralising to this House. You have had Bills passed in the subservient period, when the proper people are in power, which show an incapacity for the moment, or a want of desire, on the part of the other Chamber to perform its proper functions as a court for the review and revision of legislation; on the other hand you have the summary rejection or mutilation or perversion of Bills on the ground of promoting Party interest. I do not think it can be denied. Both of these policies have their inception in Party interest, otherwise why does this course of rejection and mutilation only occur when one Party is in power? Then you have of necessity a natural tendency even in this House to alter and pare down effective provisions on the legislation which we pass, in order to save measures from the certainty of being wrecked in the interest of the same Party. Again this is what we say, that this state of things cannot be allowed to go on, and we must have such a readjustment of the relations of the two Houses as will enable us to carry out with reasonable harmony the wishes of the people. There are all sorts of schemes afloat for reconstituting the second Chamber of the Legislature—by introducing new elements, by the expurgation of evil elements, and by the alteration and revision of the terms of tenure, and so on. All such questions we set aside. What we are concerned with is that the relations between the House of Commons and the other Chamber, however composed, should be improved, and it is to this to which in due time the attention of the House will be directed.

The right hon. Gentleman went on to speak of the Irish paragraph in the Speech, and he gave us a good deal of the old and obsolete thunder of the Home Rule controversy which I thought had died out, but of which we hear an occasional re-echo in the distance. However, my view has been made as clear as day again and again in this House and out of it, and the whole point is this: Are you prepared to deny that the Irish people are entitled to manage their own domestic affairs so long as they do not interfere with ours, and so long as nothing is done to infringe the supremacy of Parliament and therefore the integrity of the connection between the two countries? It does not make any difference whatever, in the proper sense of the word, in the solidity of the Empire that the Irish people should have what every self-governing colony has, the power to manage their own affairs; that is the larger policy that I am supporting, but we cannot all at once attempt that. It may not be feasible, and it may not in some senses be desirable to do it all at once. But let us remove the more obvious objections to the present system, and let us do it in such a way as to be consistent with the adoption of the larger policy. I do not think I need say anything more, there is no ambiguity whatever about it. It might be possible to improve the administration of Dublin Castle by sending over one or two chosen administrators; I do not think you can find abler men than there are in Dublin Castle at present, but it might be so. But that would be concentration of administration, and what we want is to enlist the Irish people—and for my part I should not be too fastidious as to the particular manner in which that was done so long as it was an effective scheme for bringing the Irish people into play in the management of their own affairs.

Then there is the question of University education. The right hon. Gentleman is very much shocked that Mr. Bryce, as we may call him now, unfortunately for the House of Commons, made a speech in which he described the scheme which he and we propose, for dealing with this great question. What I say about that is simply this. We all know that there are great and deep difficulties in this matter. We all know how attempts have been made to solve this problem. We know that all this time the Irish people are destitute of that higher education. And, in Heaven's name, if there is a feasible and probable prospect of solving it, let us embrace that method. Here we have a scheme, which, I believe, has the approval of large bodies opposed to each other in general politics in Ireland; but unfortunately, it interferes with the prerogative and exclusive position—well, exclusive is not the kind of word, because it is in one sense not exclusive—but the particular position of Trinity College, Dublin. I speak of Trinity College, Dublin, with the utmost respect and admiration, but we cannot allow the interests and the prejudices of any particular place of learning to stand in the way of a great scheme if it is likely to benefit the whole people. If the right hon. Gentleman joins his forces with the forces which are merely maintaining those particular prerogatives, I do not think that he will be embarking in a very good cause or a cause that is likely to succeed. And as to my friend Mr. Bryce making a speech on the subject, I do not know, but I imagine the position is this—that he was so full of the subject; but I do not think there was any impropriety in it at all. I have heard of things being said after a resignation of office—more important things. But to the best of my belief I do not think Mr. Bryce had resigned. But I know this much—that he was anxious to put this matter forward as a sort of legacy after he left, a legacy of peace. [OPPOSITION Cries of "Oh."] Well, he may have been entirely wrong. The right hon. Gentleman no doubt has it very much in his power to prevent his wishes being fulfilled or to delay them. But Mr. Bryce thought the people had been brought together on the subject as they had never been before, and that the public statement of these proposals would have the effect of crystallising them, or at any rate of bringing them into action.

Then the right hon. Gentleman turned to free trade, and he asked me to give my views. I have never been very voluble on free trade, because I am, as he says, one of the old school of free traders. He said one thing; I suppose it was a sort of outburst—I do not know where it came in in his speech exactly—but it seemed as if it was a sort of thing he had been in the habit of saying to himself in his sleep. He said "I do not know where I am." I have never known a case of a complaint being made of conduct on someone else's part of which the complainer himself is universally agreed to have been guilty. What we want to know is, not my views, which are simple and ordinary, but the right hon. Gentleman's views. If he would only take one of those opportunities on private Members' nights, which are so freely given by a generous body of rules in the House of Commons to private Members in the earlier part of the session, and bring forward the question of fiscal policy and state his views upon it, I am sure we should all be deeply interested—and a good many besides us.

Then the right hon. Gentleman went away to the other end of the world, to the New Hebrides. I cannot say that I have read all the details of the Blue-book with the completeness that he has been able to bring to its perusal; but if he implies that this was a thing sprung upon the Colonies by us since we came into power, and some new policy invented by ourselves, as to which the Australian Colonies had never been consulted, he is entirely mistaken.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I did not say that.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Well, but it was rather implied.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: What I said was this. I simply repeated what the Australian Colonies themselves said. It was that during the months' discussion at home with regard to the proposed Convention they were not consulted at all, nor were they allowed to give their opinion. After everything was over they were told they might either take the treaty, or have no treaty.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Well, the fact is this—that this has been discussed, and rediscussed, and rediscussed, with the Colonies, and the views of the Colonies have been expressed again and again and again, and that the controversy has been going on for years—for five years.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: You have not read the Blue-book.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: No, I do not profess to have read the Blue-book. I am told by those who have that it had been going on for five years. And, of course, we were engaged in a negotiation with a foreign Power, and at last we knew everything perfectly, being saturated with the views of the Colonies. We had to make the best fight that we could with this foreign friendly Power in order to arrive at a conclusion. And what was said to the Colonies was, "We are afraid that we have carried it as far as we can in your interests, and that we have come to a point when you will have to take what you can get." That is a very different thing from what the right hon. Gentleman said—that we never consulted them, and then, having left some time—an interval in the consultation—we threw them the curt information that they must be content to take it or leave it. Well, I am sure there was no discourtesy intended. Then the right hon. Gentleman goes on to give the details of a new system of indentured labour. This is another of the series of old election cries. But what was the case here? We were making the best bargain we could, really for the protection of these savage tribes—cannibals, and many other charming types of that sort—and, what is regarded as the terms we inflicted upon them is really the best terms that we could get for the protection of these people.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Is that the answer?

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: My hon. friend will give a much fuller answer by-and-by, and I trust that his explanation will be entirely satisfactory. I do not think that I need detain the House any longer. There is one subject which I think it is desirable that I should name, because it is not mentioned in the King's Speech—it was not necessary, but, if I did not say anything about it, it might take the House by surprise—and that was an old familiar friend, but a new form of an old familiar friend—namely, the procedure of the House of Commons. We intend to go forward immediately with the proposals with regard to Standing Committees, which were considered by the committee appointed last session, and as to which we placed a certain project on the Table in the autumn. I thank the House for their kindness in listening to a speech made in somewhat difficult circumstances, as I have a violent cold, and I hope the right hon. Gentleman will agree that my desire has been to imitate as fully as I could the very good-natured and kindly manner in which he dealt with the questions with which he had to deal.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford): The references to Ireland in the speech from the Throne and the certainty that this will be largely an Irish session, and that the Government are about to deal with the Irish question, make it, I think, desirable that I should intervene at an early stage in this debate. First, I desire to say what I understand to be the position of the Government with regard to this Irish question. We regard them as being pledged to deal with it this session, and to deal with it on lines which will lead to what I may call complete self-government. I do not want at this moment to go into any question as to the method they are going to adopt. No doubt their plan is still under consideration, and I do not know what form that plan will ultimately attain; but it is desirable that I should repeat, although some hon. Members may be tired of the repetition, that we on these benches stand in exactly the same position as we have stood in for the last twenty-five years. We believe nothing can settle this question and we believe nothing can bring comparative peace, prosperity, and content to Ireland short of the concession of a Parliament to Ireland with executive responsibility, and I gather with the greatest pleasure from the right hon. Gentleman himself—I never doubted it—that he is still of the opinion that he has always maintained, and that his view of the ultimate solution of this question is the same as mine. I pass, therefore, from the question of method, which I do not think I could usefully discuss at the present moment, by saying that the whole of the present Government are absolutely pledged to deal with this question, that they have unanimously condemned, root and branch, the present system of government in Ireland, and that they have pledged themselves to deal with the subject. In the session of 1905 every member of the present Government then in the House of Commons, and the entire Liberal Party voted in favour of a Motion that—

> "The present system of government in Ireland is in opposition to the will of the Irish people, and gives them no voice in the management of their own affairs; that the system is consequently inefficient and extravagantly costly; that it does not enjoy the confidence of any section of the population; that it is productive of universal discontent and unrest, and is incapable of satisfactorily promoting the material and intellectual progress of the people."

That then is the problem that the Government have announced they are about to deal with this session, and inasmuch as the proposed method is still under consideration, it may be advisable for me, even if I do make some demands upon its patience, to ask the House to look a little more closely into the main facts of this problem. All those who voted for my resolution in 1905 start from the position that English rule in Ireland for hundreds of years has been a failure. That is true, but I would like to emphasise it. Let us get to some of the facts. In the last sixty-five years the population of Ireland has fallen from 8,000,000 to a little over 4,000,000, and in the last twenty years it has fallen by nearly 1,000,000. Now that is an extraordinary state of things. There is nothing like it to be found in the rest of the world. These sixty-five years have been for the rest of Europe years of great prosperity. There has been an impetus of trade, wealth has increased, population has increased, and trade and commerce have prospered—have greatly prospered. To this Ireland is the sole exception. Ireland to-day is without manufactures. Wages are miserable in the extreme. Let the House have the figures. The average rate of wages for able-bodied male adults employed in agriculture in the year 1902 is stated to have been 17s. 5d. in England, 17s. 7d. in Wales, 19s. 5d. in Scotland, and 10s. 9d. in Ireland. Again, the highest average weekly earnings in England were (in the county of Durham) 22s. 2d., in Wales (in Glamorgan) 21s. 3d., in Scotland (in Renfrew and Lanark) 22s. 2d., in Ireland (in Down) 13s. Once more, the lowest average weekly earnings in England were (in Oxfordshire) 14s. 6d., in Wales (in Cardiganshire) 15s. 8d., in Scotland (in Shetlands, Orkney and Caithness) 13s. 7d., in Ireland (in Mayo) 8s. 9d. ; and the same malign influences have ever since been operating. The people, who would be the most useful, and whom it would be most desirable to keep at home, are still fleeing from the country ; so that the situation is one which obviously ought to engage the most serious attention of English statesmanship. During all these years Ireland has had no effective voice whatever in the management of Irish affairs. In the House of Commons, Ireland has had about one sixth of the representation. We all know that during the greater portion of the century the representatives of the Irish nation were overborne by the English and Scottish Members. In the House of Lords we have no representation at all, and, therefore, the whole responsibility for the present condition of affairs rests upon Great Britain. Great Britain has had complete power. Great Britain has done just as she pleased with the government of Ireland ; and as a result you have before you the ghastly failure and tragedy of to-day. Now what does it mean ? What is the real cause of this ? I do not—I never have attributed it to any malice on the part of the English people. There was a time, I know, when there was a great deal of prejudice against Ireland ; but, so far as the masses of the English people are concerned, I do not say that the misgovernment of Ireland has been due to malice. It is due to the perfectly natural ignorance of the people of this country on Irish affairs ; it is due to the perfectly natural, in the circumstances, inattention to Irish matters of a people who have more than enough in their own affairs to engage all their energies and their attentions ; it is due largely to the want of time on the part of this Assembly, which has been vainly trying for over a hundred years to transact in one Chamber a work which ought to be divided amongst half-a-dozen Assemblies. It was due to selfishness, to that kind of selfishness which induced England, when she found that free trade was an admirable thing for her, not to hesitate to consider whether it was a good thing for Ireland ; of that kind which induced her, when in 1853 there was a rearrangement of liquor duties, not to stop for one instant to think what it meant to Ireland. As a matter of fact, coming on Ireland immediately after she was exhausted by the great famine, it was a staggering blow, and inflicted upon her £2,000,000 a year of additional taxation. The system which you have maintained, and which you are now pleased to abolish, has been an impossible one from the first.

I am amused when I read so-called Unionist orators discussing the idea of creating what is called a separate Government for Ireland. There is, and there has been for hundreds of years, a separate Government for Ireland, but it has been a separate Government of so monstrous, inefficient, irresponsible, and costly a character as to be without parallel in the whole history of the nations of the world. This Government consists of a series of bureaus, each independent of the others, and most of them absolutely irresponsible. Lord Dunraven declared a couple of years ago that there were forty-one of these boards, and he was challenged to produce his evidence. I have here in my hand a list of sixty-seven of them. It would be a monstrous thing if I were to weary the House by reading this long list, but I really think that it ought to be published, and if this controversy goes on it will have to be published. In the civil Government of Ireland there are sixty-seven boards, offices, and departments. Some of these boards are responsible solely to the British Government; some are local branches of English boards and English departments, responsible to the head officials on this side of the water; some are responsible in theory to the Chief Secretary. I think I can imagine what the feelings of the right hon. Gentleman the new Chief Secretary must have been for the first week or two he was in office, on finding every morning he woke that he was president of a new department, a new board which he had never heard of before, whose officials he had never met, whose work he had no conception of, and for whom he is supposed in theory to be responsible in this House as Chief Secretary. I think there are about a score of these boards. No man living could in reality make himself responsible for their work. These boards are worked by permanent officials, and when the Chief Secretary comes here all he can do is to read to the House the document sent to him by the Government officials. That has been the practice of every Chief Secretary, and with all the desire in the world to do the best he can—and I may say that I wish to attribute to the right hon. Gentleman every desire to do what is good and best for Ireland—he will not be an exception; he will find that he is theoretically responsible for these boards in this House, and that they are really irresponsible altogether. There are some others of these boards like the Board of Primary Education in Ireland, which is actually irresponsible, and which boasts of the fact. It is not responsible to Dublin Castle, nor to the Government in this House, and the Chief Secretary who represents the Government has no authority over it. Not one of the whole of these sixty-seven departments is responsible to the people of Ireland, or to Irish public opinion. Now, these sixty-seven departments and offices employ very nearly 100,000 officials, and they have handed over to them £7,500,000 of money for the government of the country; that is to say, the whole civil government of Ireland per head of the population is more costly than the similar government of any other nation in Europe. It is far more costly than the government of England or Scotland. Scotland is a good case in point, because the population is nearly the same as that of Ireland. The civil government of Scotland to-day costs five and a-half millions; the same government in Ireland costs seven and a-half millions. That is immeasureably more costly than the government of other small nations of Europe, such as Norway, Holland, Denmark, and so forth. In looking over the figures I was interested to find that the same civil government of Ireland, whose machinery I have sketched, costs considerably more than the whole cost of the Government, home and foreign, Army and Navy, Royal family and so forth, of Roumania, Bulgaria, Servia, and Greece. The Imperial Government raises a large sum of money in Ireland, and that sum has been rapidly increasing of late. Let English representatives mark this fact, that the amount raised from Ireland has increased, while what is called the Imperial contribution has diminished. The Imperial contribution has gone on diminishing; but nevertheless the total amount raised in Ireland has increased within the last ten years by two millions of money. That is to say that these boards are having a good time and are increasing the cost of government right, left, and centre. This £7,500,000 is supposed to be spent for the welfare and good government of Ireland, but no one asks and nobody has any real power to inquire how that money is spent. I may be told that estimates are presented, and so they are. Those who are familiar with the procedure in Committee of Supply know what that means. Three sittings every year are devoted to Irish Supply, and as these are the only occasions upon which we can raise great questions of policy often the whole of the three days are taken up with big debates, and they are not devoted to the details of Irish Supply at all. But even if those opportunities were used in the most business-like way, what an utter absurdity it is to think that three sittings of this House are sufficient to exercise any real supervision and control over the expenditure of £7,500,000 by sixty-seven different authorities in Ireland. Therefore, the expenditure of this vast sum of money goes on practically unchallenged. Of the total of £7,500,000 £3,000,000 goes in the shape of salaries and wages, and this goes into the pockets of officials and policemen in Ireland. Whilst this monstrous and unchecked extravagance is going on, every real need of the country is being starved and neglected.

What sort of government are we getting in Ireland with these sixty-seven boards spending £7,500,000 ? What is being done for education ? This is a matter upon which there is admittedly no controversy, because both Conservative and Liberal Ministers agree that education in Ireland is in a deplorable condition. I will not allude now to the University question except to congratulate the Government upon having announced their intention of dealing with the question, and when they come to close quarters with it they will find those who represent the Catholic laity of Ireland perfectly reasonable men, who do not ask and never have asked for anything except real equality of treatment with their Protestant brethren. By the admission of every Education Minister for the last twenty-five years, primary education is in a lamentable condition in Ireland. As compared with England and Scotland on this question, Ireland is starved. I will give the House one or two figures. In the last four years, from 1902 to 1906, the Education Vote in England has been increased by £3,374,600. In Scotland during the same period the increase has been £619,128 ; but in Ireland over the same period the Education Vote has been increased by only £92,000. An equivalent grant is due to Ireland in connection with the Education Bill of 1902, but it has been grabbed for other purposes and practically none of it has been devoted to primary education in Ireland. I remember very well the declarations made upon this subject by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover when in office. This was one of the subjects in which he was in full sympathy, I believe, with the demands we were making. He certainly made no disguise of the fact that he believed the condition of primary education in Ireland to be lamentable. In one speech which he made in 1904 he said that in order to put the Irish schoolhouses in a sanitary condition or to bring them anything like up to the standard that prevailed in England, to supply heating apparatus and so forth, would cost something like £100,000, and that to meet the immediate necessities of education, primary and secondary, a sum of £200,000 should be provided. He had not the means to provide it, and it has not been provided since. The Attorney General for Ireland, speaking in August last, said that primary education had been neglected in Ireland in a shameful manner in the past, and that it called for attention as soon as the House could deal with it. If the position of primary education, he said, was to be properly improved, the schools properly equipped and teachers properly paid, and the children given a proper education, it would involve the expenditure of a large sum of money. During the recess there has been a most remarkable movement going on all over Ireland in this matter. Great meetings were held in every part of the country, and they were distinguished in this sense from any ordinary meetings, inasmuch as they were attended by all sections and creeds in politics. They were not political meetings at all ; they all demanded that money should at once be forthcoming to enable teachers to be properly provided for, and to enable Irish schools to be properly provided and equipped. I ask the Chief Secretary to note this point. It is not yet too late for him to see that justice is done ; still I do not ask him to make any definite pledge upon the question to-night, but I ask him seriously to look into this matter, and, when he finds that, as compared with England and Scotland, Irish education is starved, that it is in a lamentable condition, that the Irish teachers are paid miserable wages, less very often than the local policeman, and that Irish schools are not properly equipped, to use his influence with the Treasury and insist this year, as the matter will not brook delay, on some generous terms being given to education in Ireland.

It is not only education that is neglected. Take any of our great industries ; take, for instance, the question of transit. The Irish railway rates are prohibitive, and there are whole sections of the country that are absolutely cut off from the outer world. The other day, just before I left Dublin, a deputation of gentlemen, headed by two western Bishops, came to see me about a proposal to build a line of railway from Blacksod Bay to connect the country there with the west of Ireland. That railway would run through a district about forty miles in diameter without any railway communication whatever, and without any market for their commodities open to the public. It was about as neglected as if it had been a savage island in some distant ocean. Then there is the question of arterial drainage. And here I will carry Irish Unionist Members with me, because it hits them as well as us. Some of the most magnificent tracts are ruined by annual flooding, and yet while in every civilised country in Europe these things are remedied, and at small cost, not one thing is done or one hand lifted to remedy these things in Ireland, although these sixty-seven boards are actually spending this £7,500,000. The same with housing and the reclamation of waste lands. One of the most irritating things an Irishman can do is to read how in small countries like Holland, Belgium, and Denmark the government costs less than in Ireland, and yet they are able to spend millions on the reclamation of waste lands. Not one single sixpence is spent in this way in Ireland. I came across the other day what I think is an interesting example of the spirit of Irish Government. I suppose very few English Members take the trouble to read Irish blue-books, but there was one issued recently which I think is intensely interesting. I allude to the Report of the Commission appointed by Lord Dudley to inquire into the state of the Poor Law in Ireland. That Commission reported just before the House rose. They trace back the history of the Poor Law in Ireland, and show that in the year 1836—seventy years ago—a Royal Commission was appointed, composed of some of the most eminently capable men in Ireland, to consider the question whether the English Poor Law system was suitable to Ireland and ought to be extended to that country, and that Commission reported unanimously that it was unsuitable and ought not to be extended to Ireland. I think Lord John Russell was Home Secretary at the time; he was not satisfied, and he asked a member of the Poor Law Commission in England who was an Englishman, who had never been in Ireland in his life, to pay a short visit to that country, and form his own impressions. This stranger who had never been in the country before, spent three weeks in Ireland, and he came back with the recommendation to Lord John Russell that the unanimous Report of the Royal Commission should be thrown on one side, and that the Government should extend the English Poor Law system to Ireland. Lord John Russell tore up the Report of the Royal Commission, and acted upon the report of this English gentleman. And now seventy years after, the Commission appointed by Lord Dudley has unanimously reported that from the commencement the English Poor Law system was quite unsuitable, that it has been a ghastly failure, and they have recommended the Government to abolish it. No wonder that the people are still emigrating from Ireland when we have at one and the same time the most costly, extravagant, and inefficient Government in the whole world. As far as the people of Ireland are concerned, let me again repeat what I have said before, namely, that those who remain in Ireland are thoroughly and intensely disaffected to your rule, and they will never be satisfied—and their representatives will never be satisfied—until they have got complete control of all those great interests which England has muddled and ruined during centuries that have passed. That is the problem with which the Government are about to deal. That is the problem that they are pledged to deal with on lines leading to complete self-government. Upon its solution, in my humble belief, depends not merely the well-being of Ireland, but the well-being and honour of your Empire.

What are the difficulties in the way of the Government? I believe that no Government ever had a fairer opportunity of dealing with that great problem than that possessed by the Government at this moment. Ireland, as you have been told by the sympathetic speech of the mover of the Address, an old and tried friend of Ireland who has been our friend all through our days of adversity in this House and out of it, and whom I congratulate on the honour paid to him by the Prime Minister and his Party to-day—as has been pointed out by him in his speech, Ireland is to-day not only peaceful in the ordinary sense of the word, but is more crimeless than any other part of the United Kingdom, and there is, practically speaking, no political turmoil or agitation in the country. The whole country is expectant, waiting anxiously, looking to the Government for the redemption of their pledges. It would be an awful thing for the future of this country as well as of Ireland if the fact that we are peaceful were made a reason for being slow or half-hearted in dealing with this question. Do not, I beg you, once again tell the Irish people that peaceful and quiet they get nothing and that it is only by turmoil and disorder they can wring measures from this House. Not only is Ireland peaceful, but you have got another great advantage. You are strong. You are so strong that you can afford to despise any suggestion that you are legislating for us because you want Irish votes and Irish support. You have the sympathy of the whole Empire behind you. I read with interest the other day a speech made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin. In dealing with the possibility of a Home Rule measure's being proposed, what was his argument?

> "Is it conceivable,"—he said,—"that at the very moment when we are all anxious to draw the Empire closer together, to draw the Colonies closer to the Mother country, that you should embark on what I would call the separation of Ireland?"

What an utterly absurd question. What has drawn the Empire together? What has united the Colonies to the Empire and made them loyal and contented component parts of the Empire? It is the concession of that very thing the refusal of which to the Colonies caused rebellion, and the refusal of which in one colony lost the colony altogether, and the refusal of which has been the cause of all your Irish troubles for the last century. What did Sir Wilfred Laurier say the other day? I presume you will listen with respect to the words of the Premier of Canada. He said—

> "To-day England has an Empire which is second to none, and which has only been equalled once in the course of history. Now the question is asked many a time by friends and foes, how will the fabric be maintained? How can it be kept together, and how can so many elements be kept under the sway of the Empire of Great Britain? That, however, is a question no longer to be asked. It is a question answered sixty years ago when the principle of local autonomy and legislative independence was introduced in all parts of the British Empire. The Empire of Rome fell under the weight of concentration, but the Empire of England exists by freedom, by local autonomy, by legislative independence, and the Empire of England is a galaxy of living nations with England as the loving mother."

Therefore in legislating on this question of Ireland the Government will have at their back the sympathy of every self-governing portion of the whole Empire. Only within the last few months you had declarations in Canada and Australia of a most remarkable character contained in a petition sent to the King asking that in the interests of the Empire the same measure of freedom should be given to Ireland as had made those countries contented and prosperous. The other day you made a concession to the Boers. This is the second occasion now in my experience in which in this House I and my colleagues have taken part, gladly and with all our hearts, in helping to confer self-government on other portions of the British Empire. Every case was justified by the result, and we ask now that you should deal unto us the same remedy for the discontent and want of prosperity that you have applied to your own Colonies. You have, further, the sympathy of the world. If you want to look for sympathy outside your Colonies, I suppose the country you would like to turn to would be America. You are never tired of talking of America as the blood relation of England. At any rate you look to America on all occasions. I tell you—and there is not a man in this House can contradict it—that the entire public opinion of America of all political parties, of all classes and creeds, from the great presiding officer, President Roosevelt, down to the great departments of Government in that country, is in favour of Home Rule for Ireland; and when Mr. Bryce lands in America, the magnificent reception he will get there from the American people will be enhanced by the knowledge that they possess that he has been, all through his political life, a consistent advocate of Home Rule for Ireland.

What other advantage have you? I speak somewhat diffidently about this, because I cannot speak from personal knowledge, but I believe that you have the sympathy of the great mass of the English people. And, lastly, let me say I do believe that there is a considerable change of opinion in that particular corner of Ulster, which has been the home of the bitterest opposition to our movement, which you will find is of enormous advantage to you when you proceed with this question. I have been often attacked myself, with reference to Ulster, but unjustly. My idea and ambition and hope has ever been that Ulster should throw in her lot with us, I speak not of the Province, because the majority of the Province is in favour of Home Rule, but I speak now of that corner of Ulster which is hostile. I was pained in reading the other day a speech of the Member for North Derry, in which he seemed to accuse me of having said at a meeting I addressed at Coalisland last October that the opposition to Home Rule in Ulster would be put down by us with a strong hand, from which he seemed to infer that I was anxious to ride rough-shod over opinion in Ulster. Now, inasmuch as I desire to put my view with reference to Ulster before the House, I cannot do better than read an extract from that speech which will show how completely, though unintentionally, I am sure, my views were misrepresented. Speaking on that occasion, I said—

"And, fellow-countrymen, let me say, so far as what I call to-day the minority in Ulster is concerned, that it should be our greatest and most sacred duty to go to any length short of the surrender of principle to disarm their hostility and to remove their suspicions. I admit fully that the minority in Ulster is rich and influential; I admit that it has been powerful enough in the past to stand between Ireland and Home Rule, but its power is waning. . . . But, fellow-countrymen, while I am convinced that we can, if we are put to it, win Home Rule in spite of this minority, I confess to you that I do not want Home Rule for Ireland to come in the garb of a bitter hostility and political defeat for any intelligent and honest section of my countrymen. I know, of course,"

and this is the sentence that is taken from the context—

"that there is one section of the minority opposed to us that has no title to the name of honesty or intelligence—"

I know I used rather strong language on the occasion, but of course my hon. friend above the gangway will see at once that that cannot refer to the section he is connected with—

"a section that it is impossible and hopeless to conciliate or placate; a section that will, I believe, to the bitter end, continue their policy of hatred and ascendancy. I am not speaking of them. After all, in reality, they are only a handful even of the Protestants of Ulster, and I fear that they must be overborne by the strong hand. But I am speaking of the overwhelming majority of those who are ranked to-day as our opponents in Ulster. For my part, I say here that, of the overwhelming majority of these men I believe that they are honest, and, according to their own sense of the word, patriotic. I believe that they are in large numbers honestly afraid to trust their property and their religious interests to their fellow-countrymen. Now, over these men, I say to-day, that, if I can avoid it, I want no Party triumph. But if I want to influence their intelligence I want to dissipate also their suspicions, and I want to soften their hearts; and therefore, so long as it is possible for me to do so, even against hope, I will preach to them the doctrine of conciliation. . . . I say here to-day that that there are no lengths, short of the abandonment of the principles which you and I hold, to which I would not go to win the confidence of these men, and not to have them lost to Ireland. There are no safeguards which I would object to in a Home Rule Bill to-morrow to satisfy the fears which these men entertain about their religious interests; and I say he is the best Irishman who does his best to-day by preaching toleration and conciliation to these men to bring all the sons of gallant Ulster into line in the battle for Ireland."

There are my views about Ulster, and it is a little hard when I have spoken in a manner such as that about my opponents in Ulster, that one sentence should be picked out, that I should be represented as saying that my only policy for my opponents in Ulster was to overbear them with a strong hand. For all these reasons, because Ireland is peaceful, because you are strong, because you have the sympathy of the Empire and the sympathy of the world, because the English masses are friends of Ireland, and because there is a change as I believe, a movement of opinion going on in Ulster, for all these reasons I honestly believe this is a propitious moment for settling this problem. I remember in 1886, Mr. Gladstone, in one of his great and inspiring speeches on this Irish question, spoke of that time as—

"One of the golden moments in our history; one of those opportunities which may come and which may go, but which rarely return, and if they do return at long intervals they do under circumstances which no man can forecast. There have been such golden moments even in the tragic history of Ireland—a long periodic term which once more runs out, and the star has again mounted in the heavens."

Well, twenty years ago Ireland's cup of hope and comfort was rudely dashed from her lips. Now, I believe, in the the words of Mr. Gladstone, that the star has again risen in the heavens, and that, again, a golden opportunity has arisen for English statesmen; and I beg of you not to palter with a question of life and death or to trifle with a desperate case. I ask you to cease to deal with those long past grievances with palliatives. What is the use of palliatives ? Every remedy except the right one has been tried. You have tried force in all its forms on the scaffold and in prison cells. You have had the twenty years of resolute government for which the late Lord Salisbury asked. You have tried conciliation too. Yes ! You have tried conciliation and reform. But conciliation has always been ignorant and blundering ; and reform has always been too late. Further than that : take the very best men you have ; take the list of statesmen who have gone to Ireland as governors during the last hundred years, and you find that they have come back and told you that they had failed, and most of them have told you also that their task was hopeless and that the only chance of good government for Ireland was in some measure or other to trust the people. At last I beg of you to take heart of grace and fully trust the people. My belief is that the only hope for Ireland lies in the education of her children, by which I mean the drawing out of all that is best in the Irish race. This can only be achieved by throwing responsibility upon them. You have done that in small matters. Even a Conservative Government passed a local government measure ; and what has been the result in those little concerns ? Responsibility has brought with it sobriety of thought and conduct and good government in those matters. Throw responsibility on them in larger matters, in national matters, and incidentally you will teach them lessons of self-control, of self-respect, of sustained effort, of confidence in themselves, and of hope in the future. The apathy and listlessness that to-day hangs like a pall over Ireland will instantly be lifted, and those great qualities which have enabled men of our race to be prove the wisest administrators and best governors of your Colonial Empire and to rise to eminence in the government of every land to which their fortune led them, will be set free for the benefit of their own country, to cure her ills of centuries, and to transform her into the home of tranquillity and content. Believe me, and this is the last word which I shall utter, nothing short of full trust in the people can work that seeming miracle ; and I do beg of this powerful Government and of this friendly Parliament, when they come to deal with this Irish question in a few weeks time, to have the full courage of their convictions.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said that he quite disagreed with the view which had been expressed in regard to the possibility of concluding this session the programme of reforms set forth in the King's Speech. He was pleased to learn from the Prime Minister, and he thought the House would agree with him, that the omission of any reference in the King's Speech to procedure was an oversight, and that it was intended to push forward vigorously—and he hoped at a very early date—the reform of the procedure of the House, which would relieve the House itself from a large amount of detailed work which could be better done in a small Committee, and which would enlarge the working power of the House. It was gratifying to find that the relations of His Majesty's Government with all foreign Powers were satisfactory ; but there was one aspect of this foreign question to which he would ask leave to refer in a single sentence. He believed in maintaining peaceful relations with all other nations ; but surely if they were to be on friendly terms with any great Power there should be some understanding as to decency on the part of that Power in the treatment of its people. The case he had in his mind more particularly was that of Russia. Inhumanities and atrocities were being committed by that Power against its people to a great degree which had never been excelled even by the Turkish Government, of which they had heard so much. The crime of the Russian people was that they were struggling to obtain a voice in the management of their own country ; and therefore he thought that the House of Commons would stand loyally behind the Foreign Office if a hint were conveyed to that great Northern Power that it was expected that they should, in their treatment of their subjects, conform more to methods of Western civilisation than to those of the barbarism of the bygone past. The King's Speech was interesting for what it contained, but also for what was omitted from it. They, on the Labour Benches, found themselves in substantial agreement with most of the proposals outlined or hinted at in that Speech. In regard to Ireland the eloquent and powerful plea to which they had just listened was one more proof of the intensity of the feeling with which our Irish fellow-subjects looked forward to the time when they would be able honourably to accept an honest position in the self-government of their country. He echoed the hope of the hon. and learned Gentleman that this question would be approached in no niggardly spirit. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Address spoke of Ireland having suffered from injustice for a hundred years; but the wrongs of Ireland dated back at least for a thousand years of the history of that country. The injustice had been continuous, and it was now the business of this Parliament not only to act justly and prudently towards the Irish people, but by being generous to them to endeavour to atone for the injustice done to them in the past. They waited expectantly for the proposals of the Government in regard to temperance reform; and they hoped that the proposed reform would confer upon the people full and complete powers for dealing with this admittedly great social evil. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Crewe pleaded that they should trust the people in Ireland. He ventured to make a similar claim for the people of England, Scotland, and Wales in regard to temperance reform, and that the Government by their measure would confer upon the people powers to deal with this question in the way that seemed to them best. It had often been said that the people were the victims of conditions which made them fall an easy prey to the temptations of the public-house. Had the people had the power to deal with this matter the temptations of the public-house would not be the same as they were to-day. In regard to the Bill to regulate the hours of labour in mines, a Committee had been taking evidence with which they were all familiar. Similar evidence had been given before, and there was not a single instance in which the forebodings of the experts had not been falsified by the facts. The universal demand was that there should be eight hours from bank to bank, without any exception save when accidents arose which called for the employment of the men beyond the specified time. He rejoiced that women were to receive a small instalment of justice in the matter of becoming eligible to serve on local bodies dealing with education, poor law reform, and sanitation, in which it would be all the better if there were a strong infusion of the wifely and motherly element. He would not say anything at that moment upon the question of the political enfranchisement of women, but he hoped before the debate closed there would be an opportunity of putting that question before the House in a more concrete form than he could at present do. With regard to the Bills dealing with small holdings in England and Wales, and with the housing of the people, they were gratified to find those measures included. He had said that the Speech was almost as remarkable for its omissions as for what it contained, and it struck him that there was no reference in it to several promises and pledges given on behalf of the Government last session. There was one with regard to insurance under the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Postmaster-General led them to understand that if the matter was not pressed at the stage of the Bill at which it was raised he would, before the Bill came into operation in July of this year, make some proposal to enable people to insure with private companies, and also hinted that he might make it possible for them to insure through the Post Office. That matter was not mentioned in the King's Speech, and he hoped that it did not indicate that it had been dropped, as it was regarded as of great importance for the proper administration of the Act. Then in regard to the Meals for Children Bill, the provision applying it to Scotland was struck out in another place, and the Government asked those interested in the Bill not to prevent its becoming law by attempting to have the clause reinserted, but rather to trust the Government. The Prime Minister, in reply to a Question by himself, although he did not make any definite promise, certainly conveyed the impression that if the matter was not pressed, a small Bill applying the measure to Scotland would be introduced this session. If the Government did not introduce a Bill, he hoped they would give facilities to those interested in the measure, when he hoped the proposal would meet with a different fate in the House of Lords from that of the provision of last year. There was another ominous omission from the Speech, and that was old age pensions. The Speech said that the Estimates for the forthcoming financial year had been framed with the object of effecting economies consistent with the efficient maintenance of the public service. They were all for economy, but he believed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have a surplus of £4,500,000, or £5,000,000, or, at all events, a considerable surplus, and the first claim upon it was that of the aged poor who had been decent, hard-working folk, and had striven all their lives to bring up a family respectably. They ought not in their old age to have no choice but the indignity of the poor law or the workhouse. The sum required did not exceed £15,000,000, which was, he said advisedly, a mere bagatelle. If the sum of fifteen millions was required for war purposes it would be found, and what would be done for war purposes must be done for the aged poor. They must therefore do their utmost to see that any surplus should not be applied to the reduction of taxation, but should form the nucleus of a fund to provide old age pensions. One other serious omission was any reference to the unemployed. In December, 1905, the Returns of the Board of Trade showed the figure to be 4·9 per cent., and in December, 1906, it was exactly the same in spite of a year of great prosperity and wealth. This was a serious matter and one which could not be slurred over. Whether the 4·9 per cent. represented 250,000 or 500,000 men it was difficult to say, but in every town and city there were hundreds and in every great city thousands of unemployed. They were sometimes told that drunkenness was the cause of unemployment, but it was not true, although it was a cause of unemployment. Although the President of the Local Government Board had lent his authority to the statement that drunkenness was the cause of unemployment, there was no truth in the statement. Drunkenness might be responsible for some particular individual not being employed—he did not dispute that—but even then, if the drunken man was unemployed the sober man was employed in his place, and there was not a job vacant because the drunken man was not employed. Therefore they had to acknowledge that there was a permanent surplus in the labour market, and some means must be found to empty the labour market of that surplus. The President of the Local Government Board said the other day that technical instruction would do much to remedy the existing unemployment. But that must have been due to some lapse of memory or lapse of intelligence on the part of the right hon. Gentleman. Technical instruction they wanted. The more education the better; but here, as in the case of the drinking workman, all the result we should get would be that a highly trained technical and skilful workman might displace one less highly skilled and trained. Therefore technical instruction did not increase the means for reducing unemployment. Of course hon. Gentlemen might argue, and he admitted the force of the argument, that by educating a highly trained and skilled class of workmen they were bettering the style of work and rendering this country better able to compete with other countries, and would thus increase the amount of work. But he would point out that we could not have in this country a monopoly of highly trained workmen, and the same observation applied to Germany, America, and other places. Therefore they had to acknowledge that these things were not a remedy for unemployment. As a matter of fact, those who had practical acquaintance with this subject knew that it often happened that it was the most highly trained and most skilled workman who had the greatest difficulty in finding employment. A young friend of his in London, a bookbinder, held the highest qualifications in his trade, but he was idle one-third of his time, while the man who worked the machine was kept in constant work. He wished to point out that in the skilled trades unemployment largely prevailed. If hon. Members looked at the *Board of Trade Gazette*, they would find that in the engineering trade last month the unemployment was 4·1 per cent. as against 3·5 a month ago and 3·7 a year ago. The right hon. Gentleman's own trade showed an increase of unemployment. The percentage of unemployment had gone up from 3·7 to 4·1. In the shipping trade the proportion was 11·3 per cent. at the end of the month. In the boot and shoe trade the wages dropped 4·9 per cent. and the percentage of unemployment was 7 per cent. last month as against 6 per cent in December 1905. The number of labourers employed in the docks was 12,210 or a decrease of 6·5 per cent. as compared with those employed a month ago, and 5·5 per cent. as compared with a year ago. Those figures showed that both in the skilled and unskilled trades unemployment was a growing evil. The question now was what was to be done? Though the intention of those who passed the Unemployment Act of two years ago was good, that Act had been a failure. He was convinced that the then President of the Local Government Board, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, was in deadly earnest in this matter, and was determined to do something to prevent this evil, but his colleagues were against him; he had very lukewarm support from the House, and the Labour Party was not in the House to strengthen his position. The Bill went through, and what had been the result? The Central Board for Unemployment in London formed under that Act had registered 22,121 applicants for work. That was not the whole number that applied, but the number that succeeded in being registered after passing many tests which were quite beside the mark. Of that number 13,610 were labourers, the remainder being skilled workmen. Of the 22,121 this Central Board found work for 735 only. The real trouble about the unemployed was the fact that our present industrial system resembled too much an inverted current. Instead of the commercial and manufacturing system being dependent on and subsidiary to the agricultural system it was the exact reverse. The population working on the land was a declining quantity, whilst that congesting our industrial centres was an increasing one. He disputed the proposition that a certain amount of unemployment must exist in order to give fluidity to our industrial system. If our industrial system could only be carried on by such demoralising means it must be so reconstructed that everybody should be given work, and poverty should be driven from our shores. Such a reconstruction could only take place by bringing the people back to the land, and a beginning in that direction could be made by following the example set in Ireland and in the highlands of Scotland—by the institution of some scheme of small holdings analogous to those created by the Congested Districts Boards of Ireland and Scotland, and the creation of a department with practically a free hand to go out and find the means whereby the land of our country could again be brought under profitable cultivation. A Committee of this House had some time ago reported that there were 20,000,000 acres of land in this country suitable for growing trees. Not a single penny had been spent by the Government in planting a tree upon the land. The same might be said with regard to the vacant lands. There was plenty to be done, and he asked for the creation of such a department as that to which he had referred, with large powers to find out what required to be done, and how it was to be done, and to set about the doing of it. The powers of the county councils were too limited, nor were the county councils the proper bodies to deal with the land question. Let power be given to the parish councils and to the labourers to acquire land, and at once they would begin to reconstruct England and to drain the marshy swamp from which this horrible miasma of unemployment arose. The Unemployed Act was chiefly used to emigrate our people to other countries. He protested against such a thing and said we were committing a fatal mistake in allowing it. The men who were being emigrated with their families were the best that could be selected. Our colonies did not want the others and would see that they did not take them. What was being done now was that we were sending away the very men who would one day be required if the greatness of England was to be maintained. The State instead of spending money to send our unemployed abroad and leaving our own land worthless and derelict, should spend that money in putting our men on our own soil that there might arise in England peasants and yeomen worthy of our past. There was no reference this year in the Speech from the Throne to amend the Unemployed Act. They were sometimes called impatient, but the Labour Party had waited a year for the fulfilment of the distinct pledge given in the King's Speech last year that a Bill would be submitted to amend that Act. That Bill was not introduced, but the right hon. Gentleman said a grant of £200,000 would be given for this purpose. That grant was made but was so hedged round with restrictions as to make it practically useless. Applications had been made for money and refused on technical grounds.

The promise of last year had not been kept; the money voted by this House had not been spent; and the Labour Party wanted to know what was going to be done this year. That day, between 2,000 and 3,000 of the poor of London had been marching through our streets to parade their misery, and something would have to be done. He had listened to the remarkable and comprehensive speech of the Prime Minister, especially to the part dealing with the House of Lords. He had listened with a sinking heart to the sympathetic cheers from the Ministerial benches at the prospect of a tussle with another place. He sympathised with those cheers, but on this, the occasion of his first speaking in this House this session, he desired to appeal to hon. Members opposite and to the Government, before proceeding with highly controversial and contentious legislation, to call a truce of God in regard to all social reform touching the common people. They would go on with their fight with the House of Lords, they would enjoy it, and in the end they would triumph, but let them not forget those who had no share in that fight. Let them think of the suffering children, the aged poor, and the strong men out of work, and see to it that the claims of our common humanity were met before they entered into a conflict of this kind, which must be dealt with, and in a way which he hoped would settle the question once and for all. But that question was not going to be settled in one session. It was no light task that this House was entering upon. It would be many years before that reform could be accomplished. He asked that this session, before they entered upon the conflict, they should do everything possible, everything that, humanly speaking, could be done, for those who suffered in sorrow and silence, by seeing that conditions were applied to their lives worthy of human beings.

*MR. VIVIAN (Birkenhead) said he felt sure that many on the Ministerial side of the House would agree with the suggestion that old age pensions should, if possible, have been included in the King's Speech. Many of them felt that the provision of old age pensions was probably one of the best pieces of work to which the Government could turn their hands, and he was still hopeful that they might have a word of hope from the Chancellor of the Exchequer with regard to this matter. At any rate, it would be their duty continually to press the claim that even if they did not get it this session they would have it dealt with at an early date But he had risen not merely to support that argument, but to say a word or two in reference to some observations which had fallen from the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil. The hon. Member had used the extraordinary argument—at least, it appeared extraordinary to him—that excessive drinking was not the cause, to any degree, of the unemployed problem, though he apparently contradicted himself when he stated that there might be individuals who through drink were unemployed. He confessed that appeared to him unsatisfactory, though it might be that he had not properly understood the hon. Member. It was an argument, however, which he ventured to say was unsound. Excessive drinking was to a large extent the cause of unemployment. While he was not wanting in sympathy with social ideals, while he was not wanting in sympathy with the unfortunate, yet he would suggest that for any man who put himself in the position of a leader of the working classes of this country, to say that drinking was not on a large scale the cause of unemployment, was to take from that man's position as a leader of the working classes much of its value. [A LABOUR MEMBER: Who says so?] He had listened with patience to the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, and he hoped that hon. Members opposite would not interrupt him. He would say that to make such a statement in that House, on the platform or elsewhere, was not giving the best advice to large numbers of our working people. From the economic side, how did the matter stand? The argument of those who declaimed against excessive drinking was that in too many cases the workman wasted his reserve power, both physical and financial, by spending on drink the money which would, if invested in some permanent form, enable him to tide over a difficult time. Did the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil suggest that those great organisations such as the industrial and provident societies of this country, with their huge funds, their accumulated millions put by for a rainy day, had no bearing upon the unemployed problem, so far as they were concerned? Did those reserve funds not increase the recuperative power of the workpeople of this country? What was their position from the standpoint of employment? What would have been the effect had all those millions been spent in the beerhouse instead of being invested in the building of houses or in other beneficial ways? He was sure that the hon. Member did not mean all that one might reasonably gather from his arguments, listening to him, and he was merely entering a protest against expressing a view, even if right, in a way that would give a wrong impression to a great many workpeople in this country. The hon. Member had also suggested that there was no connection between technical education and the unemployed. The hon. Member, he ventured to think, had had little experience in dealing with the employment of working people, or he would realise that there were large numbers of people unemployed because of their want of adaptability to changed conditions. In large industries to-day there were less people really than the trade required. It was in part the changes in methods, and the want of adaptability on the part of the workpeople to those changes which caused unemployment in many cases. He was not suggesting that there were not other and great causes of unemployment, such as the late war, which involved an expenditure of £250,000,000. The economic effect of such an expenditure was practically the same as that of excessive expenditure on drink. He insisted, therefore, that excessive drinking was one of the causes of unemployment in this country. Of course it was by no means the only cause. [AN HON. MEMBER: How does it affect the rich?] He was not there to protect the interests of the rich; he was not one of the rich; he was endeavouring to reply to the arguments of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil. If making the great mass of our fellow countrymen more sober and giving them a better education would not have an effect on the unemployed problem, he was at a loss to know what would. If the people were sober and better educated they would not have a land problem; they would see that it was settled. But he would pass to one or two other points. With regard to the unemployed funds and the use of them, he had for some time endeavoured to gather from those who held the opinions of the hon. Gentleman what it was they suggested would solve this unemployed problem. He gathered that the collection of taxes from a number of people all over the country, pooling them in London and handing them over to some incompetent body, to spend in some extraordinary way, would solve the unemployment problem. He ventured to suggest that if they took the case of a miner in the hon. Member's own constituency, and got a pound in taxes from him to be sent to a committee in London to help the solution of the unemployment problem, from that pound would have to be deducted 2s. or 3s. or more for administrative expenses, and ultimately some 13s. or 14s. of it would be spent in some out of the way place in Essex in the production of some commodity that no one wanted. Frankly, he thought that the pound would be better used were the miner left to spend it on himself and his family, and it would have provided quite as much employment. It was, of course, necessary at times to adopt extreme measures to deal with certain extreme cases of poverty, but it was important to recognise that their exceptional measures would not effect a permanent solution of the problem. Violent medicine was sometimes necessary for urgent cases, but we should not rely on this permanently. The hon. Member had suggested that in order to solve the problem, we should reconstruct our industrial system from top to bottom. For himself, he was in favour of a gradual change. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, in a speech a short time ago, referred to the number of unemployed in the boot and shoe trade, and said they would only get a solution of that problem by Socialism—by that, he understood the hon. Member to mean that he would nationalise the boot and shoe trade. Why did not the hon. Member, and those who thought with him, bring in a Bill to nationalise the boot and shoe industry in order to solve the unemployed problem? Why? Because they knew that it would not bear five minutes examination. Imagine throwing this additional duty, say on the President of the Board of Trade. He would have to become an expert on boots and shoes. The whole thing was absurd. He believed it would mean a decrease in production, an enormous increase of administrative expenses, or a lowering of the standard of the article itself, and, in the long run, it would be the poorest who would have to pay the enormous cost of that wasteful system. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil should not go down to his constituency and talk about socialising the boot and shoe industry, but he ought to come to this House and table his Bill and let them know the precise authority that was going to administer the boot and shoe industry on socialistic lines. That was the only honest way to proceed. The hon. Member had declaimed against the King's Speech because it did not contain any reference to the unemployed question, and then went on to suggest that the people should be replaced upon the land, and encouraged to cultivate it with an interest in the result. Was that not already in the King's Speech? It was true that the King's Speech did not contain any specific reference to the unemployed problem, but there were references in it to measures which would do more to solve the unemployed question in a permanent sense than all the tinkering of incompetent committees who were to be allowed to collect taxes and waste them in an extraordinary way. [AN HON. MEMBER: Including the Local Government Board.] He could not understand the logic of some hon. Members sitting on the Labour Benches. They argued that the only solution was to nationalise or municipalise everything, and yet they declaimed against the official departments which were to give them this paradise. He thought that even the President of the Local Government Board would admit that Government offices were not the most efficient instruments for carrying on industries. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil had justified the King's Speech up to the hilt so far as the unemployed problem was concerned. He (Mr. Vivian) hoped that the proposed measures would be brought in dealing with the land problem and the valuation of land so that they would know what was due to monopoly and what was due to industrial activity. He trusted that there would be a good Bill introduced dealing with small holdings, making it possible for all people willing to do so to remain on the land with the hope of independence and improvement in their position. In the Bill dealing with housing there ought to be some opportunity for the people having a greater interest in property. He agreed with those sitting on the Labour Benches that the wealth of the country was not equitably distributed, and it was not divided in such a way as to give the soundest basis to our Constitution. [A LABOUR MEMBER: Why not bring in a Bill?] The Bills he was referring to would tend in that direction. He agreed with hon. Members opposite in protesting against the evils around them and the enormous inequality in wealth, but could anyone conclude from the speech of the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil that he had suggested any solution of the problem with which he dealt? Not a bit of it, for he had to go back to the King's Speech to find suggested solutions of the problem he was declaiming on. He hoped the Government and the heads of the Departments concerned would deal with these problems—land and housing—in a radical fashion, more particularly in regard to rural districts. To try and stop the drifting of people from the country districts to the big towns was one of the most important problems they could put their hands to, and they could not accomplish that without tackling the land problem in the rural districts. He was not without some experience on the land himself, and he was recently informed by a farmer that he could take him into his own cornfield and show him 300 pheasants at a time feeding on his corn, and yet he dare not touch a feather of them. They must give the cultivator of the soil an interest in getting the most he could out of the soil, and they wanted security of tenure. It was on these lines that in his opinion we could check the flow of the rural population to the towns and do something towards solving some of our social problems in town and country.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe) said he did not think the House as a whole would have failed to appreciate the very sensible and matter-of-fact observations made by the hon. Member for Birkenhead. He referred with great rejoicing to the action taken by His Majesty's Government last year in endeavouring to improve the condition of agriculture. He did not think there was likely to be improvement in the condition of agriculture until facts were recognised. Sooner or later this country would have to consider whether some tolls or dues should be imposed on the products and manufactures of foreigners now enjoying free access to this country, and with more or less legitimate manipulation sold at prices that did not represent the cost of production. The extent of want of employment in this country as compared with Germany and America showed something radically wrong in our commercial system. The question of Colonial preference should be considered at the forthcoming conference in a serious, practical spirit. The Prime Minister had reminded the House that although there were two Colonial Conferences not many years ago, on neither occasion was any reference made to them in the King's Speech. Evidently the Prime Minister was oblivious of the fact that upon neither of those occasions had the question of the preferential treatment of the colonies been raised by any statesman to the level of a real and burning issue which had drawn it into the vortex and region of practical politics. His Majesty's Government knew very well that Colonial Governments were keenly anxious upon this mattter of preferential treatment, and the question should be taken in hand by the mother country and disposed of one way or the other. He based this contention upon the speech made by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies last week, when the hon. Gentleman gave his benediction to the inter-colonial preferential arrangement. What was sauce for the goose was sauce for the gander. If inter-colonial arrangements were good for the Colonies, he could not see why some sort of arrangement between the mother country and the Colonies should not be considered in a serious and practical spirit. With regard to the housing of the poor it should be borne in mind that local authorities had every power to put machinery in motion, and could deal with the subject if they cared to exercise such power. He would respectfully press hon. Members to ponder over and assimilate the views of the Member for Preston on the policy with regard to social matters enunciated by the Radical Members of the House. These views were admirably set forth in a pamphlet which he received the other day, and he hoped they would convince the Radical Members that the solution of labour and social problems, if carried out on the lines suggested by extreme Members of the House, must inevitably lead to the crushing out of individual energy and enterprise, with the consequence that the State would become a huge universal provider and employer of labour. He wondered whether that was a course that appealed to the shrewd and well-balanced minds of the gentlemen who represented the interests of labour in the House. At any rate, many of them would very soon during the coming Armageddon be able to pronounce a verdict on that burning and crucial issue. He and his friends on those benches would be very much surprised if the result of the popular elections did not prove that the people of London had had more than enough of the extreme and unconscionable length to which municipal enterprise and ownership had been pushed, and of the wasteful and prodigal administration of the ratepayers' affairs by what was known as the Progressive and Liberal Members of the London County Council. With regard to the question of economy, the Government had now been in office a year, and the country was in a position to gauge to what extent the promises made had been carried out. He believed that the mass of the people of the country were beginning to see that this was a Government not of performance, but merely of promise. At the general election the whole country resounded with cries of economy. Let them take a retrospective glance at the character of the Resolutions which were passed in this House last session, and they would find that while the Government were willing to retrench in certain directions, they were eager to dip into the public purse in order to serve their political ends. Last year Resolutions were passed in favour of the payment of election expenses and the payment of Members, which if carried into effect would involve a charge of £270,000 per annum on the Exchequer. He did not wish to imply, however, that he regarded as undesirable legislation making access to the House easier to Labour Members; indeed he himself had backed a Bill with the object of relieving Members of the expense of travelling to and fro between the House of Commons and their constituencies. He considered at the time that that Bill rather exceeded the necessities of the case, but so anxious was he that Labour Members should not be barred from any of the advantages which the passage of a Bill of that sort would confer, that he yielded to the solicitations of those who were instrumental in drawing up the measure when he was requested to back it. If his hon. friend the Member for Woolwich were present, he would bear out that statement. He was convinced that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, now that he had received so many millions into his coffers by the demise of millionaires, would not look askance at a more moderate measure limited to the strict necessities of the case, and entailing a very moderate charge on the public exchequer. He meant some measure embodying the principle on which pensions were paid to ex-Cabinet Ministers. If a Member could prove to the satisfaction of the Treasury that a railway pass would be useful to him, he thought a small measure providing for its being granted might with advantage be enacted. They used to be told that Unionist administration maintained bloated armaments which constituted a menace to our peaceful relations abroad and a heavy charge on the public exchequer at home. What were the Government proposing to do in order to carry out the promises given at the election? It was known that they were contemplating considerable reductions which, in the opinion of those who were qualified to judge, would lead to a serious crippling of our Naval armaments. The fruits of that policy had been singularly borne in upon the people of this country during the recent appalling catastrophe at Jamaica, when there was not a single cruiser of our Navy available at Kingston harbour to see whether assistance was required. He was glad to see the passage in the Speech recognising the prompt assistance given by the American Government; and yet the work done by the American cruisers, whatever the necessity, was work which should have devolved upon the ships of our own Navy. Was that a sample of the economy which the Government were contemplating? They had not heard very much about the contemplated changes in the Army. The Secretary of State for War had made reductions in some of the battalions. He regretted very much that the right hon. Gentleman had foreshadowed other reductions without waiting to see the effect of his schemes which were to create a new heaven and a new earth at the War Office, and to render the Militia and the Volunteers more fit in certain emergencies to be sent abroad. The Prime Minister in very mysterious tones had said that His Majesty's Government intended to deal with the constitutional difficulty that had been created by the action of the House of Lords. In view of the unsatisfactory nature of the impression created by the Education Bill of last year, the House of Lords were, in his humble opinion, perfectly justified in throwing out that Bill. It did not satisfy the Church people, because it involved confiscation of their property and the proscription of the inalienable right of the parents to see that their children received instruction according to the dictates of their conscience. The Roman Catholics were not satisfied with the Bill; and even the extreme Nonconformists, in spite of the fact that they had a million of money dangling before their eyes, refused to accept the Bill. He admitted that the Irish Secretary intended to do something for donominational instruction, but the right hon. Gentleman was a little too chary of granting denominational education in the Church of England schools. Personally, he should be very churlish and ungracious if he failed to recognise the liberality of the Government in regard to the excellent intentions towards the denominational schools in urban areas, but he had yet to learn that the intentions of a Government or of a Minister could have the force or vigour of law. His own belief was that if the Government had accepted the suggestion made by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, that the parents should bear the cost of denominational instruction, the passive resister would have become as extinct as the dodo, and a great peace would have fallen on the land. The Government had no alternative but to recognise the existence of different creeds and different schools of thought in the country. In the Bill there was an attempt made to propitiate the denominationalists, but it was a spurious and not a genuine attempt. The Government in trying to run with the hare and hunt with the hounds had lost its quarry, and he believed that the House of Lords were perfectly justified in amending the Bill. They on the Conservative Benches were perfectly prepared to meet with equanimity the weapons that were being forged against the Constitution of the other House, and

Sir Edward Sassoon.

they were willing to join issue with the Government on various social and political questions, because they were perfectly convinced that the Government was helpless to achieve any advance satisfactory to the people of this country on matters of vital importance.

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) said he wished to say a word or two on behalf of that part of the United Kingdom which was small and modest, but was still represented in the House by hon. Members, who, though few, were fit. He meant Scotland. They were gratified that the Leader of the House had selected the hon. Member for Kilmarnock Burghs to second the Address; and in doing so, the right hon. Gentleman had done honour to the son of a great Scotsman and to a devoted supporter. The measures affecting Scotland promised in the King's Speech dealt with the holding and the valuation of land in that country. A measure dealing with small holdings was not altogether new; it was introduced last session. Its existence was, however, very fleeting, but what they saw of it they liked, and they hoped to have a final acquaintance with it before the close of the session. There was also a measure for the valuation and taxation of land in Scotland. He thought that that was a very small instalment of legislation for Scotland, and Members for Scottish constituencies would be very much disappointed indeed if the Government did not contemplate the introduction of other measures dealing with Scottish questions, such as education, which had been too long postponed by the late and the present Government, and the provision of meals for school children, which the House of Lords threw out last session. The Scottish Members were all gratified by a promise in the speech of the Prime Minister that the Government were going to take up the question of procedure, and the appointment of a Scottish Grand Committee. They felt that until some measure of that kind were passed they would not see the fruition of their hopes for reforms in matters affecting Scotland. They had a distinct Scottish grievance—a practical, not a sentimental, grievance, although he did not say it was such an acute national grievance as existed in Ireland. To some extent the grievance from which they suffered was shared by every Member of the House. The House of Commons had more work to do than it could undertake or efficiently discharge. It was simply marvellous that they had the same Parliamentary machinery as fifty years ago, when communications were much less perfect than now, when every question affecting the Empire was brought to our door the moment it came to the front. That was the reason why every Government found a plethora of measures with which it was desirous to deal, but the question invariably arose, not what measures the Government should try to pass, but what they must reject. Unfortunately some of the most important legislation in regard to local government, education, temperance, and religion had to be dealt with in separate Bills for England and Scotland. There were only seventy-two Scottish whereas there were 495 English Members. Therefore, while all measures were liable to be crowded out, Scottish Bills were seven times more liable to be crowded out than English Bills. For this they asked a very modest remedy. They were not asking for Home Rule for Scotland, but for a Grand Committee which should deal with the Committee stage of Scottish measures. Moreover, they would insist that the Grand Committee should be permanent—that was, it must not need to be set up every new Parliament—and that it must consist of Scottish Members only. He thought he understood that the Prime Minister was willing to give them that this session, and they looked forward with great eagerness to the time when he would be able to proceed with the consideration of his precedure Resolutions, because they believed that until that was done no Scottish measure foreshadowed in the King's Speech was likely to pass.

*MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland) desired to say a word or two as to the arguments of those hon. Members who had criticised what his hon. friend the Member for Merthyr Tydvil had said on the question of unemployment. They had had some extraordinary statements on that side of the House above the gangway so far as the unemployed were concerned, the accuracy of which he disputed, and which he thought were most unfair. He begged to state, and he defied contradiction, that in practically every case where a municipality had organised a system of work in the United Kingdom the employees had received far better wages than they would have had under a private company, that their hours were considerably less, their conditions of labour better, and the public had been better served than they would have been by private companies. Although that argument had been used the results were in an entirely opposite way to what his hon. friend intended, and he thought it was a contention in favour of the position that they took up, that under such a system there would be improved industrial conditions. A great deal had been made as to the effect of drink upon employment, but he wanted to say that, although probably there was no hon. Member on that side of the House above the gangway who would not assert that drink was the cause of unemployment, where they differed from their hon. friends was this, that some of the hon. Gentlemen asserted that it was the cause of unemployment, whereas they on their part said that it was a cause. That was their position; that they were prepared to agree that it was *a* cause but not *the* cause. A committee in his district had investigated 1,500 odd cases of unemployment and they found that out of all the cases only two men were permanently unemployed on account of drink, twelve were of a doubtful character, while twenty-four had not been fully investigated. If, therefore, all these cases were put together, they would not establish the argument that drink was the cause of unemployment. He thought that figures of that kind showed that hon. Members were wrong who thought that if they solved the drink question the unemployed problem would be settled. They must recognise that in every grade of life labour-saving machinery had been introduced, and unless they were prepared to organise the industry of the country the unemployed problem was bound to increase and could not get less. Therefore they were in favour of a reorganisation of industry whereby the industry would be run in the interest of the people instead of in the interest of the few. He ventured to say, moreover, that there would not be any settlement of the land question until they took the land into their own hands and made the people up and down the country their tenants. They had recently had an attempt to deal with the land question in the interest of the tenant farmers, and there they had the unexampled spectacle of both Liberal and Tory land-owners opposing that particular Bill, and he was ready to assert that he saw no settlement until we had nationalisation of land in this country. They had the fullest sympathy with many of the reforms indicated in the Speech, but could not but regret that they had not had the unemployed problem mentioned in it as it was last year. The same might be said in regard to old age pensions.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) remarked that there were no fewer than fourteen Bills offered in the King's Speech for their consumption, and he would like to say, as a private Member, that they were grateful to the Government for the large demands they were going to make on their voting power, and for the confidence the Government showed in them when they suggested passing fourteen Bills in a single session. He believed the Party was willing to support the Government in any demands they made upon their supporters for hard work. He rose specially for the purpose of thanking the Government on behalf of the organised temperance workers of the country for the prompt fulfilment of the promise made by the Prime Minister last year that a licensing measure should be among the principal measures of the session. At every temperance meeting he had attended during the recess universal satisfaction had been expressed at the promise of the Prime Minister. The country recognised in the right hon. Gentleman one who had always voted in favour of temperance reform, and they had looked forward with eager anticipation to the King's Speech. The note which had been struck at the many meetings which he had attended up and down the country listening to temperance workers had been threefold—satisfaction with the promise of the Prime Minister, gratification that the House of Commons had shown itself on the local option division last April, ready to declare by so large a majority in favour of the policy of trusting the people on this question, and an eager anxiety that the promised Bill should be one which would bring about something in the nature of a settlement for many years to come. The common form of the resolution at the meetings was that the more thoroughly the Government dealt with this question the greater would be the satisfaction of those who were gathered there, and he believed he spoke for the Temperance Party in the House of Commons when he said that the more thoroughly and the more drastically the Government dealt with the question the greater would be the satisfaction with which Members would support them during the present session. The Leader of the Opposition had taunted the Government that, in spite of their professions, they had little care for social reform. He thought the fact that the Government had placed in the forefront of their programme a great measure of social reform which went to the very roots of the life of the people of the country was an answer to that taunt which came so ill from the late Prime Minister. He did not claim that it would solve all the problems of poverty in the country, but he said that there was not a single problem or evil troubling social reformers at this moment which would not be made easier by the solution of this question. They had been discussing whether drink caused poverty or poverty caused drink, and he thought both propositions were true — that poverty produced drink and that drink produced poverty. It was a vicious circle when once a man got into the grip of either poverty or drink. It had been claimed by several speakers that drink was only one of the causes of unemployment. Poverty and want of employment came from one cause—waste in some form or other; and there was no waste in the country comparable to the waste on strong drink. The mover of the Address had stated that £160,000,000 was spent on strong drink last year and of that at least £100,000,000 came from the wage-earning classes of the country. But that was not all. At least another £100,000,000, if not more, was wasted through the loss of efficiency which drink caused, through the maintenance of a whole army of non-producers to protect society against the results of drink; and all together he thought the burden on the wage-earning community was certainly not less than £250,000,000 a year caused by waste on drink, and the Government could do nothing better for unemployment and social reform than carry a great and drastic temperance measure. He had read in a Socialist pamphlet that it was useless for workers to drink less because if they did so the iron law of wages would force wages down and the men would be worse off than before. There was some mistaken notion that wages were paid out of capital, and some passages from Ricardo and Mill seemed to support this view. He denied the proposition absolutely. Wages were not paid out of capital. They were advanced out of capital, but paid from the wealth produced by the workers, and anything which injured the efficiency of the worker struck directly at his wages. The waste of efficiency on the part of the workers owing to drink had been estimated at not less than one-sixth of their productive power; and if they produced that one-sixth more there would be so much more wealth created from which their wages would be paid, and the possibility of an increase of wages. He said a possibility and not a certainty, for the workers did not always get the wealth they produced. On what did that depend? For one thing on the standard of living, and nothing did more to lower the standard of living among the working classes of this country than the intemperance which many of them indulged in. Again, there must be increased power of combination in order that a demand for higher wages might be effective, and the great obstacle to combination was the army of blacklegs drawn from the public house wastrels—the people who squandered what they earned by honourable work, and when a strike occurred took advantage of the difficulties of their fellow workmen. It was proved as clearly as a mathematical proposition that the result of such a reform as that proposed by the Government must be an immense increase in the wages earned by the workers of the country. He therefore congratulated the Government on placing this question in the forefront of their programme of social reform. It was a workers' question, and he hoped the Government would give to the workers of the country the power to protect themselves against the evils of drink. He trusted they would make the Bill thorough, and would use all the powers of their Party to carry it through the House of Commons, and to convince another place that this was not favourable ground on which to fight the House of Commons and the country. By so doing they would earn the lasting gratitude of all who cared for the welfare of their country.

*MR. BARRIE (Londonderry, N.) said he sympathised with the views of the last speaker, but he could not forget how the Government last year outraged the temperance sentiment of Ireland, and the manner in which they deserted Irish temperance workers in the very modest measure then brought before the House. It would be in the recollection of Members that that measure only asked for the shortening of the hours of sale of intoxicating liquors on Saturday nights by one hour, for total closing on Sunday, and for the extension of the limits for *bona-fide* travellers from three miles to seven. In the Committee upstairs, largely through the instrumentality of the hon. Member for South Tyrone, a very great betrayal of the temperance sentiment of Ireland took place; and the measure was so weakened that many doubted whether it was worth having at all, yet at the last moment when the measure came finally before the House they had a second betrayal and the limit for the *bona-fide* traveller was reduced to three miles except for the area round the five exempted cities where it was fixed at five miles. He thought in view of these facts they might very well doubt the sincerity of the temperance spirit which was supposed to be so abundant on the Government Benches. He did know, and he spoke with absolute sincerity on this question, that Irish temperance reformers were greatly disappointed with the shape in which the measure finally passed the House of Commons. Of course they knew there was wire-pulling behind the scenes. They knew that the liquor interest was largely represented on the Nationalist Benches, and it was largely because of the combination among them and the action of the Member for South Tyrone that the surrender was made and the much mutilated measure passed into law. He could not believe that the Government was sincere in its temperance aspirations unless the promised Bill when introduced was found to apply to Ireland. He had chiefly risen, however, to say a few words with regard to the eloquent speech of the hon. and learned Member for Waterford. The hon. and learned Member had suggested that he (Mr. Barrie) had misrepresented him in a speech made outside the House. He had listened carefully to the correction of the hon. and learned Member, and he submitted that the slightest misquotation of the speech of the hon. and learned Member had not been proved. It was true he (Mr. Barrie) did not quote the whole of the speech of the hon. and learned Member. It was no part of his argument to do so. Hon. Members below the gangway laughed, but he would remind them that the hon. and learned Member for Waterford in quoting that speech himself left out several very pertinent sentences for exactly the same reason—because they were not germane to the argument he was addressing to the House. He had no apology to offer to the hon. and learned Member for Waterford for what he had said in his speech. He had just re-read what he said and found he quoted the purport of the hon. and learned Member's remarks as exactly and truly as any reasonable Member would interpret them. His view was borne out, too, by a letter addressed to *The Times*, by their late revered leader, Col. Saunderson, within a week of his death. These were the last, and he thought not ineffective, words of one who had done brave service to the loyalists of Ireland for many years, and their great regret was that he was not with them to continue the fight, because he believed that it was never more necessary than now that the public of England should be educated afresh as to what was the real Nationalist demand that was made upon the House of Commons. He had listened to a very eloquent speech from the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, but he was bound to admit, that, while he was charmed to hear it that afternoon, he recollected having heard at least three-quarters of it some twelve months ago. He was a little surprised, perhaps also a little disappointed, that at the entrance upon a new session, which was largely to be an Irish session, the hon. and learned Member could not have brought forward some new arguments to prove the righteousness of this great demand which was being made upon the House of Commons. He had, however, to thank him for again declaring, in words that could not be minimised or misunderstood, that he realised that nothing promised in the King's Speech would be adequate as regarded the Nationalist demand unless it conceded full and complete government by a Parliament sitting in Dublin. He did not think that it was fully realised by the Treasury Bench how far this demand would carry the Government if they acceded to it. They had heard nothing that day, even from the Prime Minister, which would warrant them in thinking that he seriously intended to concede it, but they would take every opportunity of saying that, in this matter, Ulster still stood where she had stood—that Ulster had not seen any reason to alter her strong objection to having her government handed over to the forces that controlled the South and West of Ireland. He noticed that when the hon. and learned Member made his references to the full measure of the Nationalist demand they were received with a marked and eloquent silence on the Benches opposite, and he could not help thinking that their Liberal friends were not prepared to go all the way with the Nationalist demand, as again renewed in unmistakable language by the hon. and learned Member that afternoon. He had noticed that an introductory phrase, to which he had been accustomed in the hon. and learned Member's speeches, was absent from his utterance of that day. It had been the custom of the hon. and learned Member to proclaim that he spoke in that House for the people of Ireland. During the recess the hon. and learned Member received a deputation, which was making a demand upon him, and the hon. and learned Member said something like this :—"Time was when the Irish Parliamentary Party had the people of Ireland behind it, but we cannot say that at present." That was some months ago, and during the interval he thought that the truth of this had become increasingly apparent. He was sure that it had been noticed in England and Scotland that there were growing dissensions among their Nationalist friends below the gangway. He was not aware when he last spoke in that House regarding the evicted tenants in Ireland, that at that time the question had become so acute with the Irish Parliamentary Party. During the recess, it was a matter of public knowledge that these differences of opinion had borne fruit in the resignation of one Member, who refused to bow to the dictation of the Leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party, when he forbade him to say that some portion of the large funds recently collected in America and Australia should go to the soldiers of the old land war, the old evicted tenants. That Member had the courage of his opinions. His salary was withdrawn. He refused even then to be silent. He went back to his constituents, and the Irish Parliamentary Party had not the courage to put up a candidate in opposition to him. And so he was returned unopposed. He was there that day, and not alone, because there were other Members from that part of the country who were of exactly the same opinion in regard to the evicted tenants. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford, therefore, had no right to speak of him and these others as Members of his Party. So much for that aspect of the matter. He wished now to submit to the House the later position as regards these evicted tenants It was a matter of public knowledge that very large sums of money were collected in Australia and in America during last autumn on behalf of the Irish Party cause. And no wonder, after the eloquent descriptions of the sufferings of the evicted tenants. The hon. Member for the Scotland Division of Liverpool when in his best form was absolutely irresistible in his eloquence, and no wonder he succeeded in getting the people who listened to him in America to give their money freely. They knew that a sum of about £40,000 had been collected. The evicted tenants were making demands for help from this large fund, but what did the Irish Parliamentary Party do? They had a meeting. They debated the question as to how much money could be spared out of this £40,000 for these poor evicted tenants, who had suffered so long and so severely, and the large sum of £300 was given to them to try to tide them over.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I am sorry to say that the statement the hon. Member has made is absolutely untrue.

*MR. BARRIE said he must accept the correction of the hon. Member, but he had read of the sum of £300 being voted by the Party during the last two or three weeks. He, of course, accepted the correction, but he would look up the reference for future use. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford had deplored the increase of poverty and lunacy in Ireland, and in both these matters Unionist Members joined absolutely with him;

but they looked for the explanation in a different direction from the hon. and learned Member. They were aware that economically the industry by which the major portion of the people lived was a decaying one, and if any reasonable thing could be done to better the condition of the people of Ireland generally Unionist Members were prepared to join hands with Nationalist Members in doing it. What they desired to make clear was that they did not realise that Ireland at present was suffering any more than Scotland and England, in respect of the absence of larger local control. A reference had been made that afternoon to the measure of local control given by the Unionist Party. He was not disposed seriously to disagree with the hon. and learned Member when he said that that measure of local government had been fairly used throughout Ireland, and if Ireland were left alone to work it out she could make a success of it. He thought it would be within the recollection of the House that, where an appointment had to be made to a well-paid office by the Board of Guardians of Claremorris, that body could only make the appointment with the approval of the local Roman Catholic priest. He could assure hon. Members that this was the real crux of the difficulty in Ireland. The people were not allowed to think for themselves. With reference to the position of Ulster, they had had suggestions, during the last session, that there had been a great alteration of public opinion there, and that the Orange and Green were being mingled in a new combination. But they had had a very striking by-election in recent months, in which the people declared more unmistakeably than they had ever done before that they would have nothing to do with an extension of local government by devolution, or with any instalment leading up to the larger policy. That to-day was the opinion of Ulster throughout. There had been no change of the balance of parties which warranted or justified for a single moment any allegation to the contrary. They felt that they had many things for which they had to thank their connection with Great Britain, or England. They were thankful that Ulster never was more prosperous than at the present moment. They had passed through a record year of prosperity, and the new year on which they had entered promised to be even more prosperous. That had been attained despite the fact that Ulster was the least fertile of the provinces of Ireland. All they asked was to be left alone and that they should have their laws administered without fear or favour; and so long as that was done, Ulster would still wish to say, with unanimity, that she was not in favour of Devolution or Home Rule, call it by any name they liked.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition referred in the course of his speech to one or two matters which concern the Colonial Office, and on one of these I think the House would wish that some immediate reply should be given. But before I come to the question of the New Hebrides Convention and the points which arise thereupon, I would like to say a word upon a reference which the right hon. Gentleman made to an utterance in relation to Colonial preference for which I made myself responsible during the recess. The right hon. Gentleman suggested that I had committed myself in some way to a statement which recognized the principle of Colonial preference, as that principle had always hitherto been considered in our controversial discussions. The question of inter-Colonial preference stands in an entirely different position from the great controversy upon the main question of Colonial preference. It has always been open to tariff States, and it frequently occurs that tariff States do make reciprocal arrangements one with another, and when these arrangements involve, as they do in almost every case, a net reduction of the duties on both sides no one can deny that from a free trade point of view the world as a whole is benefited. The reciprocal arrangements which may be made by the different self-governing Colonies in the British Empire are of course beyond our control; they are self-governing Colonies and they are free to make what fiscal arrangements they choose. We could not prevent them from making such arrangements if we wished to do so. But is there any reason why we should wish to interfere? I think distinctly not. Taking the simple position of the orthodox Cobdenite Free Trader, I am of opinion that taxes are an evil, a necessary evil, but still an evil, and the fewer we have of them the better. Therefore every arrangement between protectionist States which takes the form of a reduction in the tariff barriers of the world is a distinct advantage to the world in general, and when it takes place within the circle of the British Empire it is a distinct advance towards that general system of free trade within the Empire which protectionists and free traders alike desire, although free traders are not prepared to purchase free trade within the British Empire at the cost of erecting a protective tariff round the shores of the United Kingdom. I should have thought those considerations, which are really elementary, would have readily occurred to the mind of the right hon. Gentleman, and would have prevented him from fastening on me a charge of fiscal heresy, and from suggesting, what I can assure him has no foundation in fact, that any remarks I made on this subject have caused embarrassment to my right hon. friends in the Government, to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, or to my noble friend Lord Elgin.

But now I come to the more serious question which the right hon. Gentleman has raised on the character and history of the New Hebrides Convention. The New Hebrides is a group of islands over which no Power has exercised any authority. It has been a sort of no man's land—I mean no man has had any authority over it except the men who live there, and, as the Prime Minister has already said, owing to the habits of cannibalism and other savage customs, a state of grave disorder has always prevailed. For the last twenty years order has been maintained to some extent through the agency of a joint Naval Commission. British and French ships have patrolled these unclaimed islands and have administered a sort of summary justice whenever some peculiarly atrocious outrage has been committed on any white men who may have incautiously landed upon them. Under this rough and ready police protection, a considerable white population, with very complicated interests, has gradually grown up, and for the last ten years everyone interested in any degree in the affairs of the New Hebrides has felt the need of a more regularised and organised system of government in these islands. By the Anglo-French declaration of 1904 it was arranged that Great Britain and France should come to an agreement, if such could be reached, as to the government and control of the New Hebrides. The arrangements for this were well advanced before the late Government left office; but we asked the Colonies whether they would authorise us to find out what were the terms upon which the French would like to establish some sort of joint control with us over the islands.

MR. LYTTELTON: Australia asked us.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Australia asked us, and we acceded to their request. How were we to ascertain the terms upon which it was possible to conclude such an arrangement with France? There is only one practicable way, and that is by concluding a draft Convention—by formulating in a complete form the whole arrangement upon which both Powers could agree to divide their authorities and exercise a general control over the island. In the first month of last year, when we returned after the general election, the delegates from France were in the Foreign Office discussing the details of this draft Convention with the official representatives of the Colonial and Foreign Offices. It is quite true that during the progress of those negotiations, which lasted a month, we did not telegraph daily bulletins of our progress to the Colonies. We were drafting a Convention which was admitted to be subject to their pleasure when concluded, and we thought it better to submit the whole arrangement when it was complete. Up to a late period in the negotiations we were in doubt as to whether we should reach any agreement at all, because on several points a deadlock was reached, and it was not until after some time that we were certain that any fruitful result would be achieved. I am quite certain that the bargain made was the best that could possibly have been made; and I am quite certain that Colonial interests suffered in no way. It is not to be supposed that the Colonial Office lacked information on this subject. We have been corresponding with the Colonies on the subject for twenty years. The Colonial Office knew what were the difficulties in the New Hebrides, what were the circumstances that prevailed, and what the Australians desired; and we had only to find out what arrangements could be come to with France. Therefore I have no hesitation in saying that the arrangement made was the best that could be made, and it has not suffered from any lack of information or knowledge on the part of those engaged in concluding it. When the draft Convention was concluded it was sent out to the Colonies; and the right hon. Gentleman has drawn attention to the phrase that it must be accepted or rejected practically as it stood. That phrase has been misunderstood, and misrepresented even more widely than it has been misunderstood. Nothing was further from the intention of His Majesty's Government than to present a sort of ultimatum to these Colonies, and say, "You must accept or reject this arrangement." All we desired to convey by that phrase was that, having wrestled for a month with the French delegates, we were of opinion that no arrangement more favourable to Australian interests was likely to be concluded, and that, if it were not satisfactory, it would be vain to attempt to obtain further concessions from the Government of France. That appears from the sentence previous to the one quoted—

> "His Majesty's Government do not think that on the main question of principle involved there is any prospect of coming to an agreement with the French Government which would be in general more acceptable."

Quoted alone, that sentence conveys an impression which the Government did not mean to convey. Quoted with the previous sentence, that sentence does not convey the same impression. What is the gravamen of the charge of the Leader of the Opposition? He made a serious charge, not only against individuals in this House responsible for expounding the Colonial policy of the Government, but against a political Party. He accused us of a great inconsistency in the labour regulations included in this Convention—an inconsistency that amounted to a gross insincerity on the part of the Liberal Party generally, having regard to their speeches on Chinese labour. I think I can show the House that even if there were an inconsistency in the standards of labour we set up in the New Hebrides with those we are endeavouring to set up in South Africa this would involve no insincerity. [MR. BONAR LAW (Dulwich) laughed.] Let me beg my hon. friend with the nimble mind not to laugh too soon. For the Chinese Labour Ordinance this country and the Government in power are alone responsible; but with regard to whatever has been included in the New Hebrides Convention we are dealing not only for ourselves but with a foreign Power.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): It was the model.

MR. CHURCHILL: That is only the first stage of the argument I am going to submit to the right hon. Gentleman. Even if there were an inconsistency, we were not free agents in regard to the details of the Convention, but were compelled to proceed through a bargain with an outside Power for whom we entertained the greatest respect, and whom we desired largely to meet. What is the Convention? I ask the House to cast back its mind to the speech of the Leader of the Opposition. The impression left on the mind of every Member who heard the speech of the Leader of the Opposition was that the Government had become directly responsible for some disreputable labour arrangement, for some marked and notable derogation from the standard of labour which we were endeavouring to uphold in other parts of the British Empire; and that we had been parties to a Convention which, from our point of view was wholly objectionable and inhumane. Let me read one or two passages from the so-called disreputable labour clause—

> "Engagement of Women and Children."

That is the heading of Article 33.

> "Women shall only be engaged, if they are married, with the consent of their husbands; if they are unmarried, with the consent of the head of the tribe."

Until that Article came into force they might be engaged without the governing authority of these two important restrictions. Article 36 is headed—

> "Sickness of Labourer on Landing."

It says—

> "Every native recruited who, on landing, is found to be in such a state of health as to incapacitate him for the work for which he was engaged shall be cared for at the expense of the recruiter, and the time spent in hospital and the time during which he is unable to work shall be included in the term of engagement."

That is not on the face of it an improper Article. Then, there is Article 43—

> "Transfer of Engagement."

> "No transfer of a contract of engagement shall be permitted unless freely accepted by the labourer and authorised by the Resident Commissioner entitled to receive the notification of engagement or by the person appointed for the purpose."

Under the Chinese Labour Ordinance there could be transfer from one mine to another without restriction.

MR. LYTTELTON: That is not so.

MR. CHURCHILL: Within a group of mines, certainly.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: May I ask the hon. Gentleman whether there is not a power of transfer in the British Guiana regulations?

MR. CHURCHILL: It is quite true that in some respects the British Guiana Ordinance differs from the Chinese Ordinance, not in an evil direction; but what I am endeavouring to show is that these regulations which we have put forward are better than the Chinese Ordinance which the right hon. Gentleman was endeavouring in his speech to justify and even to extol. Let me read to the House Article 44—

> "Employers must treat their labourers with kindness."

Let me draw the attention of the right hon. Gentleman to this—

> "They shall refrain from all violence towards them."

Not an improper Article; and I think I remember advice of a different character having been issued by a high officer of State responsible under the late Government for the working of this very Labour Ordinance the right hon. Gentleman is so much concerned to defend.

> "Employers must further provide their labourers with adequate shelter, the necessary clothing, and medical care in case of illness."

Article 45—

> "Labourers shall not be obliged to work except between sunrise and sunset. They shall have daily, at the time of their midday meal, at least one clear hour of rest. Except for domestic duties and the care of animals—"

an important point by the way—

> "labourers shall not be obliged to work on Sundays."

Article 46—

> "Wages shall be paid exclusively in cash."

And let me point out to the House that these are not provisions which are being made for administering a Labour Ordinance in a highly developed, highly civilised State. They are provisions which are being made in islands in which nothing but anarchy prevailed, in which no regulation has ever previously been enforced; and I say without hesitation that these regulations are in themselves excellent and defensible from every point of view. I say that, by contrast with the system of anarchy that they replace, they constitute a great and undeniable advance towards a humane system of labour and control throughout the islands in question.

It is quite true that in one important respect we have differed from the view which the Colonies took in regard to these labour regulations. Let me tell the House that the whole of these regulations deal with the system of indentured labour which prevails within the group of the New Hebrides. There are many islands, and the labourers very often work in a different island from the one in which they were born and in which they live, but all the islands are part of one well-marked group, and have one well defined geographical classification. The Australian Government in their despatch indicated that they would have preferred that we should have not allowed the regulation which we imposed on the system of indentured labour to include any permission to natives of the New Hebrides to engage in labour outside the group. We took the opposite view. We thought it ought to be open to them, if they chose to engage themselves, under proper conditions, to work in other portions of the islands. We may have been right or we may have been wrong, but we had two reasons. First of all we had to consider the other party to the agreement, France. The employment of these natives has not hitherto been very large outside the particular group; and, now that Queensland, objecting to this class of labour, objecting to the introduction of tropical labour of this kind into countries where white men can do the work and where there is a possibility of establishing a high standard of labour, has refused to receive any more Kanakas, the question of the employment of these natives outside the group is not one of very much importance. But there are the interests of France and New Caledonia to consider, and we have had to move in this matter step by step with France. But what is the avowed reason which we have given for having refused to limit the employment of these indentured labourers to their own particular group? I will give it in the very words of my noble friend—

> "His Majesty's Government see no reason why recruiters should be prevented, subject to proper restrictions, from giving to natives work outside the group if they desire to do so. Settlers in the New Hebrides being free from the expense of recruiting can offer wages as high as any outside employer. His Majesty's Government are under no obligation to assist local proprietors to secure labourers at less than the current rate in the Pacific."

Now, I am bound to say I am not conscious of any reason for compunction or regret in reading that to the House of Commons. The right hon. Gentleman accuses us of gross inconsistency in that there is a regulation for the repatriation of the labourer such as was in the Ordinance for Chinese labour. The House will be pleased to learn that it was on this point that the right hon. Gentleman displayed the largest measure of inaccuracy. I am going to point out where the right hon. Gentleman is mistaken as to what the existing facts are. I am sure it would be a very damaging point if it could be sustained. I will read to the House the Repatriation Articles in the draft Convention—

> "Every labourer who has completed his term of engagement shall be returned to his home at the first convenient opportunity by and at the expense of his employer. (2) Such labourer shall be taken back to the place where he was recruited, or if this is impossible, to the nearest place thereto, from which the labourer can, without danger, join his tribe. (3) In the case of unjustifiable delay exceeding one month in returning a labourer, the Resident Commissioner concerned, or the person appointed for the purpose, shall provide, at the expense of the employer, for the return of the labourer to his home at the earliest opportunity. (4) In the case of persistent ill-treatment of a labourer, the Resident Commissioner concerned shall have the right, after two written warnings addressed to the employer, to cancel the contract and provide for the return home of the labourer at the employer's expense."

Now in all this there is an obligation on the employer to repatriate the labourer at the conclusion of his contract, but there is not an obligation upon the labourer to return unless he wishes to do so. The right hon. Gentleman has fallen into a mistake; there is no compulsion upon the labourer to return against his will to the New Hebrides, from New Caledonia, Fiji, or Queensland. But I say, without any hesitation, that nothing in this Convention prevents the Kanaka who has moved from one island in the New Hebrides to another to earn his living under indentures from going on working in that very island, or from bringing his wife and children with him to settle in that island, and remaining there for the rest of his life. Well then, what becomes of this great act of Party hypocrisy of which we have been guilty. What becomes of the charge which the right hon. Gentleman has made against us of having vitiated, by neglect or by deliberate hypocrisy, the whole argumentative position which we have assumed and adopted upon the question of Chinese labour in South Africa? I am sorry to detain the House so long upon such a small point, but I think it is a matter which ought to have a prompt answer. The foreign relations of the Colonies, as transacted by the Mother Country, involve questions of great complexity and great difficulty, and I am certainly not one of those who think that our machinery for dealing with these matters has at the present time reached its final form, but I am quite certain of this, that the practice of selecting those difficult and delicate negotiations involving Foreign Powers and involving the Colonies of the British Empire for the purpose of making Party scores, is not likely to be conducive to either international or Imperial advantage. As a Government I think we are entitled to congratulate ourselves that, when such a very large programme of legislation and so many important subjects of debate have been raised on the meeting of Parliament in the King's Speech, the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition, looking for subjects to attack the Government upon, can find scarcely any to occupy an hour's speech within all the wide range of the subjects which were at his disposal, but has to ramble off to Antipodean archipelagoes, and even when he journeyed so far afield, and toiled so long, is able to bring home nothing more fruitful or more advantageous than a homely mare's nest.

*MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said that they had just heard a remarkable speech from the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, who had accused the Leader of the Opposition of having gone to remote corners of the world in order to obtain a Party score. That was a somewhat remarkable statement by the hon. Gentleman, whose Party engaged themselves in the discussion of Chinese labour for nearly three years before the late Government left office. Fortunately the two points with which they had to deal that evening were questions of fact; they appeared in the Blue-book, and were really beyond all controversy. He would try without indulging in any flights of rhetoric to remind the House of what these issues were. His right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition, after alluding in his speech to other Colonies in which similar tactless caprice had been displayed by the present Government, dealt with the negotiations concerning the New Hebrides. It was not very probable that any of the self-governing Colonies —either Newfoundland, or Australia or the Cape—would be in a mood which was other than sensitive when the Under-Secretary had informed Natal that self-government had been granted too soon. He maintained that his right hon. friend was justified in saying that the Colonial Office had been tactless in regard to the New Hebrides. The facts were that for some considerable time there had been disputes and controversies in regard to the land claims of the French and the English in the New Hebrides, and a single French Commissioner was about to discuss the matter with a single representative of the Colonial Office. At that time the Australian Government wrote stating that while they had always been in favour of the annexation of the New Hebrides, they were willing, in view of the long delays inherent in the settlement of this question, to have a joint Protectorate of England and France over the islands considered, and for that purpose the Australian Government said that they would be glad to know what were the views of the Home Government, and on what terms the Protectorate could be established. In view of that request, after telegraphing to New Zealand for their consent, the Colonial Office, with the sanction of Lord Lansdowne at the Foreign Office, said that without any official sanctity they were willing to examine the question with France. The French Government themselves put it in this way: that it would be a simple exchange of views not having any official character; and Lord Elgin himself, when dealing with the point, had described it as a wish expressed by New Zealand and Australia that the French Government should be sounded on the matter. Then the present Government came into power, and what did they do? They immediately transformed the character of the inquiry which had been agreed to and asked for by Australia and New Zealand, into one of the most formal and official that could be imagined, terminating in a signed and sealed Convention subject only to the ratification of the Colonial Governments. The inquiry which led to this Convention lasted a month, and during that period not a single question on the subject was addressed to Australia or New Zealand. The Prime Minister had said that the Colonial Office knew all about the views of the Colonies, but the Colonies did not hold that opinion. It was tactless and foolish on the part of the Government, if they did not know the opinion of the Colonies, not to telegraph to them to obtain it. Instead of that the hon. Gentleman who represented the Colonial Office in this House, wrapping himself up in the great wisdom and great knowledge he had of these transactions——

MR. CHURCHILL: I carefully excluded myself.

*MR. LYTTELTON: Then two responsible Ministers—the Prime Minister and the hon. Member for North West Manchester—knew nothing about the matter. These transactions took place in January and February, 1906, and it was absolutely impossible for them to go at length into these matters, and ludicrous to assert that they knew the views of the Australian Colonies. In those circumstances, what was more natural than that a complaint couched in extremely warm terms should come from Australia? The Under-Secretary had denied what had been stated by the Leader of the Opposition, that this elaborate Convention with seventy or eighty clauses was presented to the Colonies to take or leave. He was astonished at the hon. Gentleman's hardihood. These were the words—

> "His Majesty's Government do not think that on the main question of the principles involved there is any prospect of coming to an agreement with the French Government, which would be in general more acceptable, and that the Draft Convention must be accepted or rejected as it stood."

What his right hon. friend had said was, that they must either take it or leave it, and he therefore thought that his right hon. friend was justified absolutely in saying that the Government had omitted to take those precautions and those measures which would have secured the assent of the Governments of Australia and New Zealand and that local information which might have been perfectly easily obtained, and the Government had omitted to give the Governments of New Zealand and Australia any information during the course of this elaborate inquiry. Accordingly the Government had blundered into this Convention, many parts of which he dared say were good, giving the maximum of offence to the Colonies, and the minimum of information. There was a second point. Broadly speaking the Under-Secretary appeared to justify the making of this Convention with respect to indentured labour by His Majesty's Government, by saying that they were dealing with savages who were and had been in a state of disorder. Let it be perfectly understood. He did not for a moment say that indentured labour was wrong, or was to be condemned, with respect to these savages in the New Hebrides. He was perfectly certain that the gentlemen who drew this Convention, believed, as they believed, that indentured labour was legitimate; but what did hon. Gentlemen opposite think of that? What was their position, or rather what ought to be their position about it? He saw opposite the hon. Member for North Camberwell, whose promotion they were all glad to see. He thought the hon. Member won his spurs almost entirely over Chinese labour. Then the hon. Gentleman who now represented the Home Office dealt with it, day after day, upon questions as to minimum wages, compulsory service, and identification marks, and by these means the late Government were held up to obloquy in this House and throughout the country. Did the Government think that their reputation as sincere men would be enhanced when, at the very time that they and their followers were defaming the late Government throughout the country, and libelling them by displaying scurrilous pictures dealing with Chinese labour, they were in January of that year actually confirming this Convention, with full notice of its contents, and without the slightest urgency or economic necessity? The hon. Gentleman said that that was inconsistent but not insincere.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, I carefully said it was not inconsistent, but that even if it had been inconsistent it would not necessarily have been insincere.

*MR. LYTTELTON said he would put it to the hon. Gentleman's supporters, some of whom were very sincere in this matter, whether it was sincere Under this Convention to which the Government had given, without the slightest heed, without the slightest economic necessity, their *imprimatur*, a little girl of twelve, provided she were a suitable height, might be recruited in the New Hebrides, and taken hundreds of miles from that group, for a period of three years. The group itself was 300 or 400 miles long and she might be taken to Fiji. Her wages might be 10s. a month, about a quarter of the minimum wage of the Chinese labourers, and she might be compelled to work in the tropics with an hour's interval from sunrise to sunset. These savages, or as the High Commissioner called them, sylvages or men of the woods were entitled to more protection from the Government than the Chinese who were perfectly well able to take care of themselves. This girl would be bound to remain in the employment of her employer for three years, and there were no holidays except Sundays prescribed. She might be kept at work beyond the three years if she had left her employer or neglected her work.

There was a penalty on her if she deserted her employment, and on anybody who harboured her. Was that the treatment which hon. Gentlemen opposite of humane tendencies desired to see meted out to children in the tropics? Lastly, there was a repatriation clause which, notwithstanding the quibbles of the Under-Secretary, would compel the employer to repatriate the girl at the end of her period of service, a provision reasonable, as he thought, but which, in the case of the Chinese Ordinance, was interpreted by hon. Gentlemen opposite as the badge of slavery. There was, he repeated, a repatriation clause which made it compellable upon the employer to repatriate that girl at the end of the period of service. He would read the clause. He was sure the Under-Secretary, though he was not a lawyer, knew what the meaning of the word "shall" was and that it was imperative. The article provided—

> "That every labourer who has completed the term of his engagement shall be returned to his home at the first convenient opportunity at the expense of the employer."

MR. CHURCHILL: If the labourer declined to go, there is nothing in this Convention to put any compulsion upon him.

*MR. LYTTELTON said the only provision in this Convention which was binding as between ourselves and France was that every labourer who had finished his engagement should be repatriated. That was a positive obligation on the contracting party, which was Great Britain, and that clause might be insisted upon by anybody who was so disposed. ["Oh."] Apparently he had not convinced hon. Gentlemen opposite, but he had tried to convince them on many occasions that the repatriation clause of the Chinese Convention had nothing to do with slavery and failed, but it was provided by the present Government that the New Hebrides native "shall" be repatriated.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): Does the right hon. Gentlemen say that that means that the labourer cannot remain?

*MR. LYTTELTON contended it meant that. It was provided that if the labourer was not returned he should be returnable. He thought the House knew perfectly well his views as to indentured labour, and there were certain terms even in the Transvaal Ordinance which he never pretended to like, but there was no term in the Transvaal Ordinance which approached in its hardship and rigour to this clause which enabled a little child of either sex to become the subject of indentured labour. After all they had said about the Transvaal Ordinance, Members opposite, and certainly neither the hon. Member for Newbury nor the hon. and gallant Member for the Isle of Wight, dared defend this provision. Neither could they defend the wage of 10s. per month. Pages of abuse were levelled at the Unionist Government for injuring the cause of labour because the Chinaman on the average had a wage of about 1s. 6d. a day. This could not be said to have been done carelessly. The Under-Secretary must have known of the protest of the Australian Government. The late Government was blamed for not following the advice of the Australians in Colonies in which they were not interested. In this case the Australians intervened in a matter in which they were concerned. That fact ought to have arrested serious and special interest. The Australian Government protested in the first place against these unfortunate savages being sent beyond the tribal region. His Majesty's Government neglected that protest, and said they should be allowed to go to Fiji and New Caledonia. He presumed that the Australians protested because they thought the importation of these men into Fiji or New Caledonia would lower the standard of wages, and disturb the labour market. But the Government which had been wafted into power on the tide of that very objection against Chinese labour would not listen. The Australians also protested that too great leniency was shown to the employers, and that it was only after a third offence that the contract might be cancelled; and they suggested that the range of penalties should be increased. The Government had given a pledge that they would veto any ordinance in South Africa which contained a repatriation clause similar to this. What sort of case would they have for action of that kind? He believed all Parties in the Transvaal had insisted in their election addresses that these ordinances in the Transvaal should be re-enacted until native labour should be substituted for Chinese labour. He thought he was accurate in saying that was the position General Botha had taken up. The Government had taken it upon themselves to say they would veto that which was going to be unanimously sought by the Colony to which they had given self-government. That would be a serious thing to do—to veto an ordinance which had anything like the unanimous assent of a self-governing Colony. But what would be the Government's position when the Colony came to them and said, "Veto this? Why you yourselves, without the slightest necessity, without any economic pressure, any war, or desolation of the country, without a single petition in its favour have instituted a system of indentured labour which contains a repatriation clause, a clause for a minimum wage of 10s. a month, and an obligation to work between sunrise and sunset."

COLONEL SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): Did the right hon. Gentleman say obligation?

*MR. LYTTELTON: If the employer desired it—and the employer in the Fijis was very like the employer in the Transvaal — he was at liberty, if he gave an hour's rest for dinner, to exact labour between the hours of sunrise and sunset. If there was that right on the part of the employer, then the hon. and gallant Member would admit there was a corresponding obligation to work on the part of the employed. What was the position in which the Government was going to place itself? They had promised to veto the Transvaal Ordinance, even if it was returned to them by an immense majority of that self-governing Colony. He contended that any such action would expose the Government in the eyes of the whole civilised world to the charge of hypocrisy and imposture. He maintained that the case of the late Government, strong though it was, was infinitely stronger now, because it was now shown that honourable men like Lord Elgin and other members of the Cabinet who had made this Convention, when their minds were not bent upon Party obloquy, or in heaping abuse on the late Government and Lord Milner, were substantially doing here that which they formerly denounced.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said the complaint of English interference with the New Hebrides was, he believed, familiar to everybody, but the original interference in connection with these islands came at the suggestion of the Australian and New Zealand Governments. As far back as 1887 we assumed a certain jurisdiction over the New Hebrides. In that year we, with France, assumed a joint protectorate over them, with power to interfere in case of any disorder, and to retain a constant surveillance and scrutiny of everything that happened in the New Hebrides. The action of the Government in passing this Convention over the head of the Australian and New Zealand Governments was not only inconsistent and improper, but an action which twenty years ago, when the views of Australia and New Zealand were not so favourable to this country as they were now, would have induced them to protest as sharply and as antagonistically as was the case with regard to New Guinea and New Caledonia. We should have had no *locus standi* in the Polynesian Islands to-day had it not been that Queensland first insisted on annexing them on behalf of that Colony, and then turning to the Home Government and saying, "We have done this in our interest in the Pacific." The same thing was done with New Caledonia. Then in 1887 came the question of the New Hebrides. From 1887 to the present day France and England had had a protectorate over the New Hebrides, and were ready to regulate any case of injustice by what might be called Marshall Acts. Under these circumstances, and having regard to the fact that for twenty years the Australian and New Zealand Colonies had agitated for a greater and more definite control over the New Hebrides, in his opinion the action of the Government in entering into this Convention was imperious, and not Imperial. Of the sixty-eight articles in this Convention, the Australian and New Zealand Government criticised thirty in a most elaborate and definite manner, as was shown by a great many pages of the Blue-book. Mr. Alfred Deakin, the Prime Minister of Australia, pointed out that the inquiry lasted a month, and not a single communication was made to the Australian Government during that time, nor were they consulted on the matter. The Prime Minister of New Zealand also said that he would not take the responsibility of advising the Secretary of State to accept the draft prepared in London, at all events in its present form. In spite of the criticism, extending over thirty articles of the Convention, only two or three unimportant amendments were made in it, after the protests of the New Zealand and Australian Governments; yet this was done by a Government which claimed to desire that the Colonies might be considered in every way.

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned. Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 13*th February*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS.

The CHAIRMAN OF WAYS AND MEANS reported, That, in accordance with Standing Order 79, he had conferred with the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords, for the purpose of determining in which House of Parliament the respective Private Bills should be first considered, and they had determined that the Bills contained in the following List should originate in the House of Lords, viz.: Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks; Barnsley, Wombwell and Wath Tramways; Birkenhead Corporation Water; Birmingham Corporation; Birmingham Corporation Water; Borax Consolidated; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water; Burnham (Somerset) Pier; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways; City of London (Union of Parishes); Colne Valley Water; Coventry Corporation Water; Devonport Corporation; Electric Supply Corporation; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas; Harrison's Patent; Heywood and Middleton Water Board; Humber Conservancy; Kendal Corporation; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation); King Edward's Hospital Fund for London; Linthwaite and Golcar Urban District Councils; Manchester Corporation Tramways; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal); Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers); Medway Lower Navigation; Merthyr Tydvil Stipendiary Justice; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund); Middlesbrough Corporation; Middlesbrough, Stockton-on-Tees, and Thornaby Tramways; Midland Railway; Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation; Newquay and District Water; North British Railway (Substituted Bill); Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation; Ogmore and Garw Urban District Council (Water Supply, etc.); Oxford and District Tramways; Pontypridd Urban District Council; Portishead District Water; Royal Insurance Company; St. Neot's Urban District Council; Selsey Water and Gas; Sheffield Corporation; Society of Apothecaries of London; South Lincolnshire Water; Southend Corporation; Southend Water; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board; Staveley Coal and Iron Company; Sutton Coldfield Rectory; Tees Conservancy; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation); Tyne Improvement; Tynemouth Corporation (Water); United Methodist Church; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board; West Riding Tramways; West Yorkshire Tramways; Weston-Super-Mare Grand Pier; Wisbech Water; York and District Tramways; York (Micklegate Strays).

LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVISIONAL ORDERS (No. 1) BILL.

"To confirm certain Provisional Orders of the Local Government Board relating to Barnsley, Neath, West Ham, and Wood Green," presented by Dr. Macnamara; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 1.]

LONDON GOVERNMENT SCHEME (SOUTHWARK BOROUGH MARKET) BILL.

"To confirm a Scheme made under The London Government Act, 1899, relating to the Southwark Borough Market," presented by Dr. Macnamara; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 2.]

PETITIONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petition from Mile End, for extension to women; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS (IRELAND.)

Ordered, That the Return relative to Government Departments (Ireland) which

An Asterisk (*) *at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.*

was presented on 10th December 1906, except so much as relates to the General Post Office (Ireland), be printed. [No. 8].

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNTS).

Appropriation Accounts presented, for the year ending 31st March 1906, together with the Reports of the Comptoller and Auditor-General thereon and certain Reports upon Store Accounts (by Act); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 9.]

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.

Copy presented, of Return showing (1) Numbers and Nationalities of the Passengers that left or arrived in the United Kingdom for or from places out of Europe; and (2) The net balance of such Passengers outward or inward in each month of the year 1907 (by Command); to lie upon the Table.

OPTIONS AND FUTURES IN FOOD STUFFS (LEGISLATION RESPECTING).

Copy presented, of Reports from the Canadian Government and His Majesty's Representatives Abroad on Legislative Measures respecting Gambling in "Option" and "Future" Contracts as regards Food Stuffs [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN.

Account presented, of the Sums received and paid in respect of the Wages and Effects of Deceased Seamen in the year ended 31st March, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

RAMSGATE HARBOUR.

Copy presented, of Statement of the Receipts and Payments for the year ended 31st March, 1906, together with an Account of the Receipt and Issue of Stores [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 10.]

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP ACTS (DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY INDUSTRIES).

Copy presented, of Regulations, dated 21st January, 1907, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 79 of The Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the manufacture of Paints and Colours [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain Classes of Shops [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PERTH PRISON.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 22nd November, 1906; *Mr. Mitchell-Thomson*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 11.]

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

Estimates presented, for the year 1907–8, with Explanation of Differences [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 12.]

NAVY (STATEMENT EXPLANATORY OF ESTIMATES).

Copy presented, of Statement of the First Lord of the Admiralty explanatory of the Navy Estimates, 1907–8 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BREWERS' LICENCES.

Return ordered, of "Accounts of the number of persons in each of the several Collections of the United Kingdom licensed as Brewers for sale, *i.e.*, Common Brewers, Victuallers, Retailers of beer to be drunk on the premises, Retailers of beer not to be drunk on the premises, and Brewers of beer not for sale, particularising each class in each collection; and of the number of Licences issued to Victuallers and Retailers of beer to be drunk on the premises and not to be drunk on the premises; and stating also the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, etc., sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, etc., hops and hop substitutes, used by Brewers of beer for sale, and of malt and sugar used by Brewers not for sale, from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of September, 1906."

"Of the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of

September, 1906, distinguishing Brewers for sale from other Brewers."

"Of the number of Brewers for sale (i.) who use malt and hops, or hop substitutes only, and (ii.) who use malt with substitutes for same and hops or hop substitutes paying for Licences, from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of September, 1906, separating them into classes, according to the number of barrels of beer charged with duty calculated at 1·055 degrees gravity, viz.: under 1,000 barrels; 1,000 and under 10,000; 10,000 and under 20,000; 20,000 and under 30,000; 30,000 and under 50,000; 50,000 and under 100,000; 100,000 and under 150,000; 150,000 and under 200,000; 200,000 and under 250,000; 250,000 and under 300,000; 300,000 and under 350,000; 350,000 and under 400,000; 400,000 and under 450,000; 450,000 and under 500,000; 500,000 and under 600,000; 600,000 and under 700,000; 700,000 and under 800,000; 800,000 and under 900,000; 900,000 and under 1,000,000; 1,000,000 and under 1,500,000; 1,500,000 and under 2,000,000; 2,000,000 barrels and over; showing separately, in each class, the quantities of malt, unmalted corn, rice, etc., sugar, including its equivalent of syrups, etc., hops and hop substitutes used; and stating also the number of bulk barrels of beer produced, and the amount of Licence Duty paid and Beer Duty charged in each class."

"And, of the number of barrels of beer exported from the United Kingdom, and the declared value thereof, and where exported to, from the 1st day of October, 1905, to the 30th day of September, 1906, distinguishing England, Scotland, and Ireland (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 45, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (ELECTORS, ETC.), UNITED KINGDOM.

Address for "Return showing, with regard to each Parliamentary Constituency in the United Kingdom, the total number, and as far as possible, the number in each class, of electors on the register now in force; and also showing the population and inhabited houses in each constituency (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 50, of Session 1905, and of Command Paper 2807, of 1906)"—(*Sir Charles Dilke.*)

QUESTION AND ANSWER CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Cerebral Meningitis.

SIR FRANCIS CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he will send a circular to local authorities recommending them to use their powers to extend the provisions of the Notification of Diseases Act to cerebral meningitis, or will promptly introduce a short Bill to include this disease under this Act.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Local Government Board issued a circular to local authorities, in August 1905, enclosing a memorandum, which had been prepared by their medical officer, on the subject of cerebro-spinal fever. In that circular the Board intimated that they would be prepared to consider any application made to them by a sanitary authority for their approval to an extension of the provisions of The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, to that disease for a limited period.

NEW WRIT.

New writ for the Burgh of Aberdeen (South Division), in the room of the Right Hon. James Bryce (Manor of Northstead).—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

NEW BILL.

PUBLIC HEALTH (REGULATIONS AS TO FOOD) BILL.

"To enable Regulations to be made for the prevention of danger arising to public health from the importation, preparation, storage, and distribution of articles of food," presented by Mr. Burns; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 3.]

BALLOT FOR BILLS AND MOTIONS.

Ordered, "That no Bills, other than Government Bills, be introduced in anticipation of the ballot, and that all Members who desire to ballot, whether for Bills, or for Motions for Tuesday 19th February, and Tuesday 26th February, and Wednesday 20th February, and Wednesday

27th February, do hand in their names at the Table during the sitting of the House on Tuesday 12th February or Wednesday 13th February, and that a copy of such notices be handed in at the latest during the sitting of the House on Thursday 14th February."

"That the ballot for the precedence of the said Bills and Motions be taken on Thursday 14th February, at a convenient time and place, to be appointed by Mr. Speaker, and that the presentation of Bills on Friday 15th February be taken as soon after Twelve o'clock as Mr. Speaker may deem convenient."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (KING'S SPEECH, MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Ordered, "That the Proceedings on the Address, in answer to His Majesty's Speech, shall, until concluded, have precedence of all other Orders of the Day, and of notices of Motions, at all Sittings for which they are set down."—(*Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.*)

THE INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

MR. SPEAKER having called upon the Clerk to read the Order of the Day, and the Clerk having read the first Order, Mr. Speaker called upon Sir Gilbert Parker, who was in possession of the House at the adjournment of the debate on the Address on Tuesday night, to continue his speech.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire, Mansfield): On a point of order, Sir. Last night I gave notice to both the Clerks at the Table that I intended, with the hon. Member for Chesterfield, to introduce Mr. Harvey, who has been elected for North-East Derbyshire. That notice having been given, is not Mr. Harvey entitled to take his seat?

MR. SPEAKER: I have received no notice. It is not possible for a Member to take his seat except during an interval of business. I have already called on the Orders of the Day. The hon. Member will be able to take his seat to-night on the interruption of business, but I am afraid that until that time arrives it will not be possible for him to do so.

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (12th February), "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty as followeth:—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) resuming his speech, said that he had pointed out to the House that the New Hebrides Convention was entered into without sufficient consideration either for the opinion of the Australasian Government or for the protestations that might be heard in connection with the Convention. The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies had said that during the last twenty years the Australian Colonies had had sufficient time in which to express to the Government their views upon the affairs in the New Hebrides. He thought the Under-Secretary for the Colonies had unwittingly misled the House. All the evidence went to show that the Australian Colonies desired to be represented at any *pourparlers* with France. That the wish of the Colonies had been disregarded was proved by the Blue-book. From the very first the Government had acted indiscreetly. We went into the New Hebrides in the interests of Australia. In 1887 we entered into a Convention for the protection of life and property, and in 1893 an Order was made in Council for the administration of justice, civil and criminal, as regarded British subjects. In 1901 there was a similar French arrangement, and in 1904 a Commission was appointed for the regulation of disputes as to property, and Residents were appointed. Then came a movement for the settlement of the New Hebrides by emigration from Australia and elsewhere. The Australian and New Zealand Governments held strong views as to what the future of the New Hebrides was to be. France had appointed two experienced men who knew the South Seas, one having been governor of New Caledonia and the other a Captain Bunge who had traded in those seas. Great Britain on the other hand had appointed gentlemen who, however worthy and experienced in the Foreign and Colonial Offices, could not have that intimate knowledge which the French representatives possessed. The result was that the French representatives at the Convention gloried in the success, the triumph they had over British diplomacy. The British Government had acted very unwisely in the matter of Australian representation. As late as October the representative of the New Zealand Government had declared that his Government felt as the Commonwealth of Australia in the matter, and their only course, having regard to the circumstances, was to throw the responsibility of accepting the Convention upon the Imperial Government The New Zealand Government had not been consulted in the first instance and therefore were unable to take any other course. The Prime Minister of Australia had also declared that, not having been consulted during the negotiations in London, and not being able to judge of the possibility of further amendments, the Government of Australia had no option but to throw the whole responsibility upon His Majesty's Government. No one wanted to create differences between the Home Government and the Colonial Governments. We had had enough of that, and no one regretted more than he did that there was ever any difficulty with regard to Natal. Whether it were one side of the House or the other which made the mistake it would be equally serious to all future consultations with Colonial Governments. A most serious mistake had been made by the Government in this matter. There should have been Australian or New Zealand representation. Australia was only a few hundred miles from the New Hebrides, and had made strong representations with regard to certain articles in the Convention. Her opinions, however, had been utterly disregarded. He could not imagine hon. Members feeling that the Government had acted either with discretion or consistency in the matter. The Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies had made one or two statements in his speech the previous night which he probably would not care to repeat when he came to think the matter over. The hon. Gentleman said—

> "The New Hebrides is a group of islands over which no Power has exercised any control. It has been a sort of no-man's land. I mean no man has any authority over it except the men who live there, and as the Prime Minister has already said, owing to the habits of cannibalism and other savage customs, a state of grave disorder has always prevailed. For the last twenty years order has been maintained to some extent through the agency of a joint Naval Commission. British and French ships have patrolled these unclaimed islands and have administered a sort of summary justice wherever any peculiarly atrocious outrage has been committed upon any white men who may have landed incautiously upon them."

He (Sir Gilbert) wondered whether the Under-Secretary would repeat those statements again that day? Probably, however, he had had an opportunity of refreshing his mind, and would allow him (Sir Gilbert) to correct the most obvious misstatements. The New Hebrides were not a no-man's land. It was an absurd error.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): It is not a portion of our Empire.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said he wondered what hon. Members would think of the Government which had taken under its protection the native population of the New Hebrides, and at the same time consented to conditions of servitude, called slavery, which had been so vigorously condemned by the Under-Secretary and his colleagues and Party at the last general election. The New Hebrides, he repeated, was not a "no man's land." It was composed of a series of islands. So far as the question of settlement went, France had actually dragged from this Government an assent to set up municipalities in these so-called savage islands. That very question of municipalities was a serious one. France in her colonies gathered her people together in small communities, and the gathering of French people together in small communities in these islands would have the ultimate effect of throwing the New Hebrides into the hands of France as Samoa was thrown into the hands of Germany. But perhaps that was what the Government wanted. He hoped the House would have an opportunity of hearing what the Government's intention really was—whether it was that France should take the commercial power in the New Hebrides, and control the settlements there by her municipalities, and so get the absolute control of the commercial development, effective municipal development, finally taking the islands from us. If that were so the Government might have adopted an easier course and withdrawn from the New Hebrides altogether. He would pass, however, from that subject to the question of the recruiting of natives, prefacing his remarks by saying that the Under-Secretary, who had referred to the New Hebrides as a "no man's land" and a "savage state," should be informed that cannibalism and savagery had almost entirely disappeared; they existed only in the very small islands of the group, and did not exist at all in the islands where the white man had gone to settle or to trade. Mr. Deakin, the Prime Minister of Australia, had made the strongest protests possible against the recruiting of natives From the Under-Secretary's speech the previous night it was almost impossible to discover whether he meant to say that natives should be recruited from outside the group or whether they should be recruited from inside. The Under-Secretary stated—

> "In all this there is an obligation on the employer to repatriate the labourer at the conclusion of his contract, but there is not an obligation upon the labourer to return unless he wishes to do so. The right hon. Gentleman has fallen into a mistake; there is no compulsion upon the labourer to return against his will to the New Hebrides, New Caledonia, Fiji or Queensland. But I say without hesitation that there is nothing in this Convention which prevents the Kanaka, who has moved from one island to another to earn his living under indentures, from going on working in that very island, or from bringing his wife and children to settle with him in that island, and remaining there for the rest of his life."

That seemed to him an inadequate explanation of what was a difficult problem. He thought it would have been better if the Government had frankly stated that it had made a departure from its principles in regard to the recruiting of natives in order to satisfy the planter.

Sir Gilbert Parker.

He would like to read a statement from a very important book, entitled "Saints and Savages," by Robert Lamb. It was there stated—

> "Every ship had now to be licensed and had to carry a Government representative or agent whose presence prevented abuses. Further, every labour ship had to hoist a black ball at the masthead to indicate her character to the islanders. . . . There is no doubt it is responsible in a large measure for depopulating the group and for retarding the work of the Mission. It is very hard for a man, after spending the best years of his life on their education and training, to stand on the shore and see the cream of his young men shipped away to Queensland for the benefit of the planters. These young converts were destined to be teachers, but suddenly infatuated with a desire to see the world they were gone within an hour, often to return as wrecks, or not at all. He must begin his task all over again with the younger lads, perhaps with a similar result, and there was no protection or remedy."

Again in "Lomai of Lenakel" by Frank Paton, was the following—

> "This labour traffic has had a dreadful effect in depopulating these islands. I have studied the question for six years from the island point of view, and I am convinced beyond all shadow of doubt that this is one of the main causes of the dying out of our people. No, the labour traffic is mainly responsible, for it sucks the young life-blood out of the community, breaks up family ties, and everywhere leaves desolation and bad feeling behind it. I have seen a whole village emptied of its young men by the visit of a Queensland labour vessel, and most of their wives then recruited by the next French vessel for Noumea."

The Government had again and again said through its representatives that it cared for the native races under its control. The natives of the New Hebrides had been under the Government's control and that of France, and were the Government prepared to defend such a policy and yet condemn their Unionist predecessors for taking recruits from an immensely populated country, and sending them to South Africa? At any rate the Unionist Government did not take the children of the natives, and he would like to know where in the Convention could be found a provision that the wives of the Kanakas should accompany their husbands. No change had taken place in the method of recruiting. One would have thought the previous night that some large and beneficent measure had been introduced to give the natives better conditions. If the Convention had done anything it had given the British and French residents there better conditions. The Queensland Government gave the natives far better conditions than had been given them by right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Queensland Government gave to the Kanakas the right of settlement in the country. The fact of the matter was the Government were more concerned to have the *entente cordiale* with France emphasised and developed than to show consideration for the opinion of those close to the scene of action and who knew the conditions far better. The Convention would not bear close investigation if right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite were concerned for the well-being of the native races to the extent which had been so glibly expressed in that House and elsewhere. The Unionists had been charged with showing disregard of the native races and with being their tyrants and oppresssors in the interests of the money-getters of the Transvaal. But the greed and gain in the new position of affairs was now to be transferred to the planters in Fiji and to the white workers and planters of New Caledonia. Hon. Members opposite would not be satisfied except with the fullest regulation, but there was nothing in the New Hebrides Ordinance insisting on an explanation being given to the labourer before he left the islands as to what was the nature of his work or exacting a penalty if that explanation was not made. Moreover, this loose ordinance applied to the women as well as to the able-bodied men. He would leave the matter to the judgment of hon. Members below the gangway and behind the hon. Gentleman the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies. He did not think they would be prepared to defend the action of the Government, for that House was not without a conscience. It must be remembered that Members of the Opposition had gone through a much sterner ordeal, and in more difficult circumstances, than Ministers could have gone through. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Why?"] The reason was obvious. Since the last election there was the feeling that office must be retained, now that it had been obtained, at any cost. So long out of office as they had been, it was not certain that Members of the Ministerial Party, agreeing with much that he had said, would be prepared to express their opinion in the division lobby, no matter how strong their feelings might be. He had said in regard to the employment of labour that there was no compulsion upon anyone to explain to the labourer what the condition of his labour would be. He remembered how strongly hon. Members expressed their views upon this matter in regard to the Chinese Labour Ordinance. He appealed to the Members of the Labour Party to consider sympathetically what was meant by a working day of fourteen hours, if it was the will of the employers that the natives should work so long. Hon. Members on the Labour Benches desired to see the *status* of labour lifted throughout the world, whether it was black labour or white. What then did they think of child and female labour being subjected to the compulsion of working from sunrise to sunset, if it were the will of those who employed them? In the Chinese Ordinance they were compelled to have a food schedule. Nothing was left to the employer, but here everything was left to the employer. The New Hebrides Ordinance would not stand comparison with the Chinese Labour Ordinance, and the dealings of the Government with the Australian and New Zealand Governments could not bear inspection. The conditions of the New Hebrides Convention were not such as could be accepted, if the opinions which the Liberal Party had expressed in the past with regard to Chinese labour were honest.

COLONEL SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said that the argument of the Opposition divided itself into two parts—the *tu quoque* argument that the Government had disregarded the opinion of the Colonies, and ignored the sacred rights of humanity on which the election was won; and secondly that the arrangement made under the Convention was not sufficiently careful to safeguard the interests of the native races in the New Hebrides. The *tu quoque* argument was not a very profitable one, but as it had been used they were bound to reply to it. Complaint has been made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, that in this matter of the importation of labour the opinion of the Colonies had been flouted. It was a difficult thing to make a bargain with a great friendly nation like France and avoid friction with the Colonies concerned. He was amazed at the audacity of hon. Members in calling in question the action of the Government in this respect. If a mistake had been made in circumstances of great difficulty, it was nothing to what hon. Gentlemen opposite had done, in flouting the deliberately expressed opinion of Australia, New Zealand, and the Cape in regard to the importation of Chinese labour into South Africa, after those Colonies had helped us to hold the country. Could there be a body of men less entitled to bring forward this charge than those who were hated by the Colonies for trampling on their ideals, at the very moment when they thought they had helped us to hold a portion of our Empire? For one man aggrieved on this question in the self-governing Colonies, there were 10,000 aggrieved over Chinese labour in South Africa. Then it was said that the Government had abandoned their principles the very moment they took office. There was a very complete answer to that. In South Africa this country had complete control and in the New Hebrides we had none, except where our ships could go and the few places where residents could live; and then only over British subjects, who were only a fraction of the inhabitants of these islands. Again, South Africa was a civilised country with equal rights for all men, both black and white, but the late Government imported there a fresh class of servile labourers who were denied equal rights. In the New Hebrides, the Convention would at least mitigate an evil. The hon. Member for Gravesend had suggested that the inhabitants of the islands on the trade routes were so civilised that it was proposed to set up municipalities. As an acute man the right hon. Gentleman foresaw the reply which would be made to the *tu quoque* argument—viz., that what had been done in this matter was at any rate an improvement. Some fourteen years ago he was for many months in Australia and he believed the hon. Member for Gravesend was there at the same time. Many of his personal friends were concerned in this traffic with the New Hebrides and other islands, and as humane men they were exceedingly anxious with regard to the horrible cruelties to which it gave rise. The state of things which then prevailed was, he was sure the hon. Gentleman would admit, a disgrace to civilisation, and any change made must be for the better. The Blue-book would enlighten them as to the extent of civilisation which prevailed, for they there found that the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific reported of one of the largest of the islands that, except on the shore, it was almost unexplored, and that the inhabitants had as little to do with their neighbours as possible, except as articles of food. He had no desire to join a municipality of which these were the chief inhabitants.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: I am sure the hon. and gallant Member does not wish to misrepresent me. I did not suggest that the municipalities were to be for the natives.

COLONEL SEELY: Quite so. But the hon. Gentleman was suggesting that these islanders were more or less civilised on the great trade routes, and it was only right to point out that the allegation that this was a people whose *status* would be reduced under the Ordinance was not quite in accordance with fact.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): Is the fact that they are savages a reason for enslaving them?

COLONEL SEELY said the right hon. Gentleman was quite acute enough to see the point raised, and to understand that the reply to the argument of the hon. Member for Gravesend that these people were so civilised that they were to have municipalities conferred on them, was simply that it was their habit to eat each other. Another quotation from the same Report was to the effect that these people were savages not in the sense that they were fierce, but by reason of their very timidity, that they placed no value on human life and would kill one another on the slightest provocation. He held that those who had been in the Antipodes were entitled to say that what was found in the Blue-book—although they might not approve of all of it—was at least an advance in civilisation and a great improvement on the present day state of affairs. No doubt the recruitment of native labour was carried on under circumstances of gross brutality and cruelty and no proper regulations could be made except for British subjects. This Convention proposed to bring all the inhabitants of the New Hebrides under the Ordinance, which must have the effect of diminishing the cruelties now perpetrated. The Convention did many other things, such as preventing the sale of spirits and regulating the sale of rifles and ammunition to the natives, which had been the cause of nearly all the murders and outrages in the New Hebrides. It also prevented the establishment of a penal settlement there and it prohibited the erection of fortifications. He thought they could all join hands in wishing that some emendation could be made of the regulations which were found in the Blue-book. They fully recognised the difficulties there were in reopening the matter with France, and they equally realised that nothing could be done without the consent of France. For many centuries we had been pleased to call ourselves—he thought with justice—the champions of liberty. In recent years France had challenged that supremacy, and if his right hon. friend the Foreign Minister could give the House some assurance that he would reopen negotiations with France, and, whether by amending the Convention or by the issue of regulations, get rid of the objectionable parts of these labour regulations, he believed that every man on that side of the House, and probably on the other side as well, would be grateful. The right hon. Gentleman opposite pointedly asked him whether he would regard with favour the proposal that child labour should be employed under indentures for a long period and for hours of very long duration. His reply was, No. He protested against it now, and he expected that every one on that side would protest against it, and, now that his Majesty's Government had had it brought to their notice, he should expect that they would protest. But their answer was sufficiently clear that, at any rate, it was better than the system under which there was no limitation, and that it was all they could get France to agree to. He thought they had a right to ask, although that answer was complete, could not they appeal to France, who, equally with us, desired to safeguard the liberty of every man, whether black or white, to amend these regulations; and he earnestly appealed to the Foreign Secretary to give to the House some assurance that he would approach France on this subject with a view to removing every possible stain and to enabling the two countries again to take up the position of being determined under all circumstances and at all times to maintain a high standard of freedom for every man, woman and child, black or white.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that he thought his hon. and gallant friend who had just spoken was wrong in supposing that we had no power in the Pacific Islands, including the New Hebrides, over the natives, because there was a certain protection given by Orders in Council. The trade was mainly conducted in British ships, but no doubt there might be a tendency to throw it into the hands of French, German, and American captains in order to avoid those regulations. If this matter was to be debated with any advantage and not to be confined to mere Party recrimination, they must ask the Secretary of State to put the House in possession of facts not now in their minds. With regard to the municipalities the whole scheme of this Convention was to put the half-caste population in the same position as the whites. There were many hon. Members who had never been able to take a Party view on these native questions. Their quarrel was with both front benches, or much more with the permanent opinion of the country as reflected in the permanent opinion of the Office which largely made and administered the law. The state of things in this respect was getting worse instead of better, and, whatever might be the special circumstances of this Convention, he could not hope that, by relying solely on colonial opinion, they would institute a better state of things. Their task was to raise the standard in these questions throughout the Empire, here and in the Colonies alike. The Colonies, in this particular case, were, no doubt, aware of the importance of the "blackbird" trade in the New Hebrides to New Caledonia, of which they were jealous and the Government of which they for many reasons disliked. We could not always, on these questions, avoid friction with the great self-governing Colonies. Whenever such friction occurred, Parties in this House were very apt to take it up and make it a matter of complaint against those who had incurred the hostility of colonial opinion. His hon. friend the Member for Gravesend went so far as to allude to the events of 1887 in connection with the New Hebrides, and then proceeded to make a Party attack on the present Government. Why, the origin of these complaints was the proposal of Lord Salisbury in 1886 to hand over the New Hebrides to France, and it was Mr. Deakin's first connection with this question that he came over here, furious on the question, to make a violent protest on that particular subject. No, there was no Party advantage to be derived from these questions. He gave place to no one in his desire to support the great, self-governing Colonies in their views, but there were occasions when we were bound to have friction with one or other of them in the interest of the Empire as a whole. He joined heartily in the view of his hon. and gallant friend that we should try to induce the Government of France to submit to conditions more humane with regard to this "black-birding" traffic between the New Hebrides and New Caledonia than those that prevail at the present time. The ships engaged were mainly British ships, and so far as British subjects were concerned they could be controlled under the Pacific Ordinance and by the Orders in Council. But they could not have a naval force in every bay of the islands, and consequently abuses did exist. The men who were recruited were largely the men who, if they were not recruited, would be murdered in their homes. They were people the Government wanted to get rid of. The recruiting of children in the islands was a new feature, but so far as women were concerned he was informed they had gone in considerable numbers with the men to Queensland. Repatriation had peculiar difficulties, because if they repatriated the unfortunate, unpopular man it was like repatriating the Under-Secretary to the Colonies to the other side. If they popped him down on one side of the island he was admired, respected, and cheered; but on the other side he was eaten. But the whole argument with regard to the New Hebrides showed one of the difficulties of this question. They could not deal with it by comparison with the Chinese Labour Ordinance, which stood upon a wholly different footing. The two cases were not comparable in any way. He was, however, suspicious of the Government, not as individuals, but as representing a policy of the Colonial Office, and to some extent of the Foreign Office, of which he disapproved. There had been immense delay under four successive Governments in getting rid of that which thirty years ago would have been got rid of in a day —the legal *status* of slavery in the Zanzibar coast-strip. They had a promise of the Under-Secretary, which was a good promise, but which did not as now interpreted take them further than the promise given by the present Leader of the Opposition eleven years ago. They were, therefore, naturally suspicious, and he wanted to ask whether it would be possible to request the French Government to introduce better provisions to amend the Convention such as those which had been framed under the Pacific Orders in Council. The Convention could be applied by ourselves to everybody who was not a French subject. Was it unreasonable that our Government, if they were themselves prepared to improve the proposals of this Convention as against all other ship-captains except French captains, should get the consent of France to impose them as against French captains also? Few Frenchmen were engaged in this business, for, to our shame, it was mainly a trade in British hands.

SIR GILBERT PARKER asked if the right hon. Baronet thought the conditions laid down in this Convention in regard to labour were superior to those laid down in the Queensland Ordinance.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he did not think so. He urged the Government to appeal to France to impose further restrictions upon the "black-birding" trade.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) wished to call attention, before the Secretary of State replied, to a telegram from the Governor of New Zealand to the Secretary of State dated 13th October, 1906, which concluded with these words—

> "My Government suggest, however, for your consideration, that there should be, if possible, added to the Convention a final clause to the effect that it may be modified on lines to be subsequently agreed to between the parties."

He desired to know whether Article 68, which said that the provisions laid down in the Convention should remain in force until new provisions were settled in virtue of agreement between the signatory powers, was a consequence of that telegram.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): I am very much obliged to the hon. Member who has just spoken, for he has anticipated one of the points on which I was going chiefly to rely. I cannot answer his question directly, whether that particular Article 68 was inserted in consequence of the request of the Colony, or whether it was already in the Convention; but that is a matter of small importance. But it is a most important part of the Convention, and the importance of it consists in this, that it is a recognition that this Convention, as it now stands, is one that has been arrived at between ourselves and France after years of suspicion and rivalry. It is the first agreement, and it is, for a first agreement, exceedingly comprehensive. But that Article 68 is in itself a recognition that we do not look upon this agreement as something which is in every detail conclusive and the best possible, but as something which will very probably, in the course of experience, give rise to many suggestions and many proposals for modifications, and, I hope, for improvements. This is an important point to be borne in mind, because the door is deliberately kept open, both by France and by ourselves, to be guided by experience and to propose to each other from time to time, whenever it may appear desirable, that we should agree upon further modification of the Convention as it now stands. I am indebted also to my right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean for the full recognition that might have been expected from anyone of his experience and knowledge that this Convention is a matter for which not one country but two countries are responsible. Never in any part of his speech did he speak as if there was a special responsibility or were special rights connected with this Convention which belonged to England and were not equally shared by France. That is an important matter to bear in mind in criticising this Convention. I am sorry that the hon. Member for Gravesend should have spoken at one time as if this Convention was evidence that there had necessarily been some conflict between the *entente cordiale* with France and the interests of our Colonies. I do not believe that is true. This Convention is founded upon the principle of condominion between France and England over the New Hebrides. It is that condominion — that joint protection — which has been the subject of so much criticism in the Colonies. If there be objection in the Colonies to this Convention, it is not so much to the details of the Convention as it is to the fact that the joint protection is a condominion, and is not an exclusive assertion of British rights in the New Hebrides. But the fact that this is a joint protectorate does not arise out of the *entente cordiale* with France. It is recognised in the *entente cordiale*, it is true. We were bound, under the provisions of the late Government, to make arrangements with France in concert with regard to the New Hebrides. We were bound to France by the action of the late Government in the instrument which constituted the *entente cordiale*. But it was not the *entente cordiale* or the desire to make the *entente cordiale* which made it necessary to recognise the condominion of France with us in the New Hebrides. It was the actual state of things existing in the islands long before the *entente cordiale* was thought of. The hon. Member opposite said this Convention had been a triumph for French diplomacy. It is very undesirable that either party should seem to make capital out of any of these matters, whether it be a triumph for one side or the other or not. But there is no foundation for the statement that this is a triumph over British diplomacy. What is the condition of things disclosed in the Blue-book? Take the number of settlers existing in the islands at the time when these negotiations began, and you will find that the number of French settlers is roughly two-thirds and of British one-third. When you start on our side with one-third to two-thirds of French settlers, and the result is an agreement upon a condominion equally shared between the two, I cannot see that there is any reason to reflect upon British diplomacy. This Convention, as it exists, looking at it from the general point of view, was the best possible under the circumstances. It was the best in every point of view except one, and that one point of view is the point of view of those who consider that by some means or other Great Britain should have obtained exclusive possession of the New Hebrides, and France should have evacuated her interests there altogether.

SIR GILBERT PARKER inquired if it was not the case that Australia and New Zealand rather desired that the sovereignty of the New Hebrides should be divided between the two Powers, the northern islands to go to England, and the southern islands to France.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I will deal with that point in a moment. The one point of view that France should have been the Power to go out of the New Hebrides, and that we should have remained there alone, is, of course, absolutely untenable to any fair-minded man, looking at the proportion of the interests of the two countries. If one country had had to go, we clearly could not claim that the country with two-thirds of the settlers should be the one. Well, then, I put that on one side. There remained three possible courses. One would have been that we should have abandoned our position in the New Hebrides altogether. I put that equally on one side, because we had our interests in the New Hebrides, and the Colonies undoubtedly had a strong interest in the matter, and we were bound to uphold their interests, and I put it out of the question altogether that we should have withdrawn and left the islands entirely to the French. That certainly would not have been palatable to any party, either in the Colonies or here. Then there was the second possibility—that, instead of a condominion or joint protection, there should have been a partition of the islands, and the hon. Member for Gravesend said the Colonies would have preferred a partition. Yes, but when you are in a proportion of one-third to two-thirds, and you are going to engage in negotiations for a partition, it is by no means certain that you will get the best of it. Remember that British interests have been unduly depressed in the New Hebrides during recent years by the high protective duties of the Colonies themselves, while the French have given more liberal treatment. If we had taken this moment, then, to demand partition, I doubt whether we should not have been open to the charge of having chosen the very worst moment in our own interests or in the interests of the Colonies to demand such a partition. Therefore I do not think partition is desirable; and also on other grounds considering the possibility, or even the probability, of French and British influence working together, I think the prospect is much better for the islands than if they had been divided into two parts, where there would have been a certain rivalry between the separate parts. Well, then, the third and only possible course was the one we pursued of arranging with the French a joint Protectorate and an influence exercised together. I think if you take all that into consideration, whatever point of view might be held by some parties in the Colonies, or by hon. Members opposite, who may be desirous of acquiring more territory or increasing our political influence—I maintain that taking the circumstances as they were, in the New Hebrides by this Convention, either from the point of view of territory or of political influence, we have gained rather than lost. There are drawbacks, no doubt. One drawback, of course, is that of divided responsibility, As I have said, I prefer divided responsibility, keeping the whole in one, to a partition which would certainly have made an artificial separation in the same group, and might have meant rivalry. But when we come to the question of divided responsibility and to the Labour Ordinance which has been so much attacked, I must ask hon. Members to bear in mind in attacking this particular Labour Ordinance that the whole provisions of the Labour Ordinance were very carefully discussed between both Governments, and any attack directed against the British Government is one which from the nature of things must be equally directed against the Government of another country also. They are both jointly responsible.

*MR. LYTTELTON: May I ask this one question—Whether in point of fact the Australian objections to these Labour provisions were ever brought before the French Government at all, and if they were brought, whether the French Government made any objection to them?

SIR EDWARD GREY: Well, the Australian objections to the Convention I assume were part of the general objections in the long despatch.

*MR. LYTTELTON: They were specifically set out in four or five paragraphs.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Yes, but included in the long despatch. That despatch was received after the Convention had been drawn up, and the reason why the Convention was eventually ratified before these particular amendments could be discussed with the French Government, is a point I will come to later, when I deal with the necessity for completing the Convention without further and prolonged discussion; but I want to deal first of all with the merits of the Labour Ordinance. I do not think either the French or the British Government is fairly open to blame for having drawn up between them this particular Labour Ordinance. I did not know this point was going to be raised, or I would have been present last night to hear the right hon. Gentleman, but I have had an opportunity of reading, with some astonishment, the extent to which he has been moved by the contemplation of this Labour Ordinance in the New Hebrides. He expressed, in stronger language than I think has ever been used in this House before, the horror of political inconsistency. Unless that horror of political inconsistency is assumed, it is strange coming from one of his political experience. He has called us impostors and hypocrites.

*MR. LYTTELTON: I said you would lay yourselves open to that charge.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Well, Sir, I am, then, to understand that the right hon. Gentleman says that we lay ourselves open to the charge, but that he does not make the charge.

*MR. LYTTELTON: As the right hon. Gentleman was not here when I made that speech, and it is only summarised in the reports, I may explain that what I said was that if when the Transvaal Legislature had, as I anticipated, repassed the Ordinance that is now on the Statute Book, when they came with this Ordinance in their hands and His Majesty's Government proposed to veto it, the Government would expose themselves before the whole civilised world to a charge of hypocrisy and imposture, when it became known that only a few months ago they had made themselves responsible for this Convention.

SIR EDWARD GREY: That, of course, is a matter of argument which depends for its value, in my opinion, on the question whether these particular regulations in this Ordinance are really fairly comparable to those of the Chinese Labour Ordinance. He was, according to the report, pained by what has already been done. I think he was reported to have said he was grieved from the bottom of his heart at the conduct of the Government. I do not take these words too seriously, because the impression I gained, though I admit it was only an impression, from reading the report, was not so much that the right hon. Gentleman was really suffering from a great grievance, as that he considered himself to be in possession of a grievance which he would not readily forego. And I must say I doubt whether the right hon. Gentleman really was suffering from genuine indignation at anything the present Government has done. I think what really was in his mind was a still rankling resentment of the attacks made upon his own Party by ourselves when we were in Opposition, and I think in the desire to defend Chinese labour, and not a dislike of anything the Government have now done, was the real motive to be found. I do not think, and indeed, my hon. and gallant friend, the Member for Abercromby Division, who speaks with weight and authority on this subject, has already pointed it out, that there is a fair parallel between this Ordinance and the Chinese Labour Ordinance. I pass over as a small matter the fact that this territory of the New Hebrides is territory over which we are not solely responsible, and which is under two flags and not one alone. A much more important matter is this. What was the state of things in the New Hebrides before this new Ordinance was passed? I say in the first place, from my point of view, the introduction of Chinese Labour into South Africa was the introduction of an evil which did not exist there before. I mean an evil under these particular conditions. The introduction in the case of this Ordinance is a great improvement on anything that existed before. The hon. Member for Gravesend looks on the New Hebrides as having been already in a very advanced and peaceful condition, except as regards the smaller islands. The information I have is that even in the larger islands, except near the coast, there has been a state of chaos and anarchy, which meant not only confusion but violence, cannibalism, and slavery, and that the islands, from the lack of any recognised authority over them, have been practically at the mercy of any methods of recruited labour. This Ordinance is the first attempt to introduce a new state of things—not a worse state of things than that which existed in the islands before, but it is the first attempt by agreement to put some order and restrictions upon the people of the islands, and the first thing I would ask about this Ordinance is, Would you have left the whole thing alone? Would you have had no provisions with regard to recruiting, and left things to take their course amongst those people who are savages, but, undoubtedly, very defenceless savages, as regards the means white men may bring to bear upon them with regard to their labour? I say emphatically it would have been a crime not to draw up a Convention, not to introduce some provisions with regard to labour. I say exactly the opposite with regard to the Chinese Labour Ordinance in the Transvaal. It would have been much better to leave things alone and not to introduce the Ordinance. That is the first difference between the two cases. This is a step forward, and not a step backward, in the New Hebrides. Then as to consistency, my own main objection to the Chinese Labour Ordinance has always been practically fourfold. I objected to the restriction of the Chinese to unskilled labour; I objected to the compound system; I objected to the compound system accompanied by something perhaps even worse—the total separation from women and children; and in the fourth place I objected to labourers being introduced under these conditions with the further conditions added that they were to be compulsorily repatriated whenever they ceased to live in the country under these conditions. Not one of these things will be found in this Ordinance. The repatriation under this Ordinance is entirely different from the repatriation under the Chinese Ordinance. This repatriation under the New Hebrides Ordinance is compulsory only on the employer. It is not a condition directed to preventing the labourer continuing to work, or engaging in any employment he likes in the sphere where he is after his indentured labour is over. It is an engagement to ensure that if he wishes to go back, his employer shall be made to send him back. It never occurred to me that it had any other possible reason.

Mr. LYTTELTON: Does the right hon. Gentleman say that, supposing a French Government were in want of labourers in the New Hebrides, as they very likely will be, and supposing that under this Convention labourers have been imported to Fiji, he would get any lawyer to support him in saying that under this Convention they would not be entitled to demand that those labourers should at the end of their term be repatriated from Fiji?

Sir EDWARD GREY: Of course the right hon. Gentleman has had legal experience, which I have not, but I cannot see how he can get any such stipulation as that out of the Convention. Supposing labourers had been exported from New Caledonia to Fiji under indenture, my reading of the Convention would be that if they belonged to the French settlement, or were under French influence in the New Hebrides, there would be a right to demand that they should be repatriated at the expense of the employer, provided they were willing to go. Where is the right hon. Gentleman's contention?

Mr. LYTTELTON: The words are "shall be repatriated."

SIR EDWARD GREY: "Shall be" at the employer's expense. I read the whole thing together. It is at the employer's expense that they shall be repatriated. I am sure I am correct in the interpretation of what was in the mind of the people who drew up the Convention, and that they were thinking, not of putting compulsion on the labourer, but of making it clear that if he was sent back it should be at the expense of the employer. If there is any doubt upon the point there will be no difficulty in having that doubt removed. Of course there is nothing in the Convention about compounds, and we do not know, until the experiment is tried, if there will be separation of families. With regard to children—and I am not surprised that on this matter the provisions should be closely scrutinised—we must bear in mind, when it is objected that the provisions will come into force without limitation of any kind and that there is no stipulation as to age in indenturing, that those who were concerned in drawing up the Convention were assured it would be exceedingly difficult to ascertain the ages of children, and so it was left to the Resident Commissioners not to settle the age but to settle the height, and what the height shall be remains to be settled. I cannot say yet what that height will be, but it will be such as will make it exceedingly improbable that labourers under the age of sixteen or even eighteen will be engaged. It is to be settled by the Commissioners, and it is an obligation upon the respective Governments to see that it is settled so as to exclude the employment of children of a tender age. If you say that no children are to be engaged, it will be exceedingly difficult to distinguish between adults and those who are of ages between sixteen and eighteen, no record of age being forthcoming. It is desirable to have something said as a guide to those who are to have authority, and the limitation of height will be some guarantee of strength. Then it has been said that the provision for hours of labour being between sunrise and sunset may lead to abuses contemplated by the hon. Member. Well, if it does, then it will have to be reconsidered and revised. Everyone understands that the work will not be continuous, and I admit at once that if in experience it is so construed the provision will have to be revised. It is not the intention that work shall be continuous; the intention in framing the condition was to prohibit night work, to limit work to daytime. You may say that twelve hours continuous labour is too much for a man; and so it is; but it should be understood that it is not labour in mines only which is contemplated; a great part of the work will be on the surface and will resemble some of the work upon which agricultural labourers are employed in England, and will not be continuous throughout the day. *Prima facie* I do not think the provision intended solely to prohibit night labour, which declares that labour shall be only between sunrise and sunset, is open to the interpretation and the criticism hon. Members have applied to it.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: If they are required, may not natives be employed in the mines of New Caledonia?

SIR EDWARD GREY: Of course for labour in mines under French protection we cannot stipulate the conditions; it will be carried on under the Convention and French regulations, and there is no doubt that labour in mines must be governed by regulations more strict and more carefully considered than the looser rules that apply to work above ground. When you come to the question of recruiting for labour outside the island, I may say the intention was that labourers should be primarily used for labour in the islands within the group, and from island to island in the group itself. You could not prohibit recruiting for labour outside the island without excluding New Caledonia, and as the agreement is with France that liberty must be left and the fact of allowing the competition will tend to the advantage of the labourers in position and wages. In all these matters, and with this group of islands in their primitive state, it is an experiment that is being set up, and we must be guided by experience. I entirely agree that the provisions of the Labour Ordinance which the representatives of the two Governments have drawn up with the knowledge at their disposal will, and must be, carefully watched; and if experience shows that any of the provisions are open to the abuses hon. Members have anticipated, undoubtedly we shall be perfectly willing to approach the French Government and discuss with them the possibility of amending or improving the provisions. And now I come to the point put by the right hon. Gentleman opposite in reference to the objections raised by the Colonies and whether they were discussed at the Conference. When the suggestions from the Colonies came it would have been very undesirable to delay the ratification of the Convention by entering upon a long discussion of further points, and that will be the opinion of the Colonies themselves. The Colonies, no less than the British Government, rightly or wrongly, were apprehensive that if an arrangement were further delayed complications might arise that would make as good an arrangement as this problematical and exceedingly difficult in the future. The Colonies agreed that an arrangement should be concluded without delay establishing a joint protectorate of France and Great Britain over the New Hebrides. We proposed to the French Government to get over the difficulty by at once proclaiming a joint protectorate, reserving a Convention for future discussion; but this the French Government declined with an objection of some force, that to make a public declaration of that kind would imply that France and Great Britain were doubtful as to their having the vested interests in the islands we considered they had up to that time. They represented, and I think rightly represented, that it would be undesirable to declare a joint protectorate without also entering into a Convention. In these circumstances we had no choice, and I think undoubtedly the best course was to ratify the Convention and to defer consideration of further amendment and improvement in it, which we are entitled to propose under Article 68 already alluded to. Now I ask hon. Members opposite, if they had had to deal with a situation that thus arose, when it was considered desirable even by the Colonies themselves to conclude an agreement without delay, would they have hung up the Convention to discuss points of detail? If they would have done so, they would have run the risk of complications that might have made a settlement more difficult. If they would not have hung up the Convention, then I do not see what ground of complaint they have against His Majesty's Government. We have not ignored the Colonies, we have borne their interests in mind; and, taking those interests into account with the interests of this country, of France and the New Hebrides, we have framed a Convention which will not only result in the harmonious working of relations between the two countries, but will result in increase of colonial trade and of British influence.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): I should like to say that I think the right hon. Member for Forest of Dean and other hon. Members opposite are rather too late in the day in protesting against importing this question of a Labour Ordinance into Party politics. It is very curious to observe the agility and ingenuity of the ablest members of the Ministry in defending themselves against charges very similar to those which they made against the late Government when in office. It is not denied that the Ordinance contains many things which are undesirable, but it is justified on the grounds that it was the joint action of the representatives of France and ourselves with the object of improving the existing state of things in the New Hebrides, and that it was the best that could be done in the circumstances. I think that any impartial observer will admit that the Leader of the Opposition was well justified in raising this question last night, and that this Government have adopted a course very similar to that by which the late Government defended their policy. It is remarkable that throughout this debate there has run the suggestion that the difficulty in connection with the removal of the objectionable features from the Ordinance is due to the joint action of France and ourselves; but I did not hear from the right hon. Baronet the Foreign Secretary or from the Under-Secretary for the Colonies that a definite suggestion had been offered by the Government of this country to France that an alteration of these objectionable features should be made, or that the French Government had objected to agree to such a suggestion. I think, therefore, that His Majesty's Government must accept the whole responsibility for these objectionable features, and I do not think it was open to right hon. Gentlemen opposite to criticise the late Government with so much bitterness and so much advantage to themselves during the last election for having adopted the course which they now pursue. The Prime Minister in his speech yesterday made a very remarkable reply to my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition, who naturally complained that in the gracious Speech from the Throne no reference had been made to the forthcoming Colonial Conference. The Prime Minister began by saying that he was going to make a serious speech—thereby implying that the speech of the Leader of the Opposition was not serious—and that the Government were not ashamed to follow the example of their predecessors. That, I think, can hardly be regarded as a serious answer to the great question raised by my right hon. friend, because the circumstances are now totally different from those in which former Conferences assembled. They cannot quote our action on previous occasions against us unless the conditions were similar, which I maintain they were not. The conditions of the Conferences of 1897 and 1902 were totally different from those of the forthcoming Conference, the first one arising out of the attendance of the Colonial Prime Ministers at the Diamond Jubilee, and the second at the suggestion of the then Colonial Secretary. Apart altogether from that, however, I submit that the whole position of the Colonial Conference, and the presence in this country of the Colonial representatives, has undergone a complete change in the last few years. There is now attached to these conferences an amount of importance and public interest which has never before attached to any similar conferences. Whatever views hon. Members opposite may take in regard to the actions of the late Secretary for the Colonies, the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, no one can dispute that one of the results of his tenure of office was to arouse deep interest in Colonial affairs and questions touching the relations of the Colonies and the Mother Country. Another effect was to bring into greater prominence all those great questions affecting Imperial defence, trade relations, and a variety of other questions in which the Colonies are interested. Therefore, quite apart from precedent, there is the great fact that the Conference this year is surrounded by greater interest and greater importance than any of its predecessors, and on that ground alone it is a matter of surprise that no reference is made to it in the gracious Speech from the Throne. The Prime Minister referred to steps that are to be taken in regard to another place, and he said the reason for that action is to be found in the treatment by another place of two great measures which passed the House of Commons last session—the Education Bill and the Plural Voting Bill. I think the Government will want some stronger ground upon which to base their proposals for such a change in the Constitution than is to be found in the action of another place in regard to those Bills. The first Bill was only so treated as to make it more in conformity with the declarations of Ministers and to make it more fair and just than it would otherwise have been. The second Bill attempted to tinker with the Constitution of the country by altering the system on which men were qualified to vote, and it proposed to do that by the extraordinary method of penalising electors and exposing them to the risk of imprisonment if they made a mistake. Another question dealt with by the Prime Minister was in reference to Ireland, and the right hon. Gentleman used remarkable language. I submit with confidence—and I can quote in support of my contention the writings of eminent men—that that declaration of the Prime Minister is one that it will be extremely difficult to justify either by any policy proposed from those Benches or by any speech when we come to close quarters. The Prime Minister's first point is that you are to give to Ireland power to manage her own affairs provided she does not interfere with our own, and also we are to adopt the Colonial model. But the Colonial model is quite inappropriate if we are to retain, as the Prime Minister suggests, the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament. The Prime Minister did not condescend to any details, and he interrupted the Leader of the Opposition when he said that he thought the Prime Minister was in favour of the forward policy—the larger policy which meant separation between Great Britain and Ireland. The right hon. Gentleman said that was not the proper description of his views.

He then described what he regarded as being the right policy, the application to Ireland of the Colonial model. I ask confidently, if that is the policy of the Government, if their intention is to make Ireland a self-governing country just as Canada and Australia are, by what means do they propose to secure that condition upon which so much stress was laid at the general election, the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament? Where is the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament in regard to the affairs of Canada and Australia in their general management? Are we to understand that this Colonial model is to be adopted and followed, involving as it does in Canada and Australia not only the power to maintain an armed force, the balance of power in connection with the administration of justice, but the maintenance of a sufficient and efficient police. These are questions which surely cannot entirely be left to be answered until we come to the actual and definite proposals of the Government. Surely in the face of a declaration such as this, that we are to have a system of Home Rule such as exists in the Colonies, and that at the same time the Imperial supremacy is to be main ained, and after the delcaration of the hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Waterford yesterday, who with his friends has never wavered and never departed from the position he has taken up, we are entitled to more explanation. The hon. Member used language which meant that Ireland should have a separate Parliament with an executive responsible to it. If that is the policy of the Government, then again I ask what becomes of all those declarations made during the general election and since, that Home Rule was not before the electors and forms no part of the policy of the Government? To call proposals of this kind devolution is simply to use language which is not only misleading but absolutely ridiculous. We are asked by some of our critics to look at these proposals before we condemn them, and we are asked to consider whether there may not be found in them some advantage to Irish government which should demand from us some support of them. How can that demand be made when the Irish leader and the Prime Minister make it perfectly clear that the real object of the provisions which they desire to pass in the first instance is not to remove this bone of contention and give the Irish people some measure which would satisfy them and put an end to the policy of separation, but is to lead up to the wider policy declared by the hon. Member for Waterford—the policy of a separate Parliament, which the right hon. Gentleman denounced during the general election, and which the Government said we had no right to put before the country as a question of practical politics. I submit that after the statement made by the Prime Minister and the explanation of it by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford, of which there was no denial, the conception which the hon. and learned Member holds of self-government is the conception held by the Prime Minister. Hon. Members who were present will remember that the hon. and learned Member made his point perfectly clear, and not only was there no denial on the part of the Prime Minister, but there was a silent acceptance of it in the form which is very familiar in this House; therefore, we now know that not only are we to consider later on proposals which have for their object the consolidation of various portions of Dublin Castle or the cheapening or simplifying of the system there, but we are to have produced this session a measure which is deliberately intended by the Prime Minister to lead to that larger policy which he himself admitted yesterday was the giving to Ireland of self-government on the Colonial model. It is perfectly clear, therefore, that the supremacy of the Imperial Parliament which the Prime Minister and hon. Members opposite led us to believe was to be preserved is a delusion and a sham, and that the words they used were intended to conceal from the general body of the people what it is that they are proposing. If they intend to take the Colonial model and make Ireland a self-governing colony like Canada or Australia — apart altogether from the fact which has been demonstrated before, and by no one more clearly than by Professor Dicey, that the Colonial model is not one which it would be safe to adopt for Ireland—it would mean the entire breakdown of our present system. Moreover, it would not only mean that, but you would have to follow it up by applying the system to the United Kingdom; therefore you have against you every form of criticism and a great weight of recognised authority, and I think we have reason to complain of the Government that we are left to await the production of this measure and debate the subject without further information. I should be the last to press the Chief Secretary for Ireland, who has just vacated an office of immense labour to take up his present duties, to open his mind upon any branch of his administration. He is not a man who is likely to take his ideas from a brief prepared by others and produce them without considering them for himself, and we will not press him for his view upon this case. But the matter cannot remain where it is after the statement made yesterday by the head of the Government. The right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister has told us what it is that he looks forward to as the ultimate solution of the Irish problem; that Home Rule is the object that he has in view; and that in order to attain that object certain steps shall be taken this session. By that statement the right hon. Gentleman has made it impossible for anybody opposed to Home Rule and who will continue to be opposed to Home Rule to consider the steps which we are told are to be taken as being practical proposals resting on their own foundation. They are really only a part of that greater policy to which we on this side and a considerable section of the Irish people are resolutely opposed. The hon. and learned Member for Waterford in the speech which he delivered yesterday gave the condition of the country as one of the reasons why Home Rule should be granted to Ireland. The hon. and learned Member quoted figures to show that the condition of Ireland after all these years of British rule was unsatisfactory, and he laid the whole blame and responsibility for the condition of things at the door of the British Government. It is a remarkable fact, if this indictment is a just one, that although we have been responsible for the government and control of Scotland and of Wales, similar charges are not made and similar results have not followed. It is still more remarkable, when we are asked by the hon. and learned Member for Waterford to carry out the kind of reform in Ireland which he wants and which is resisted by those who like myself are opposed to Home Rule, that we need go to neither Scotland nor Wales to see what the result of our rule has been. It is only necessary to go to one corner of Ireland, Ulster. What do we find in that part of Ulster where no such demand is made and which asks the British people to allow it to remain an integral part of the United Kingdom? Is there any sign of misgovernment there? Does not that district prosper? Have not great trades and industries grown up there and flourished? Very well. If under the hands of the British Goverment this is possible in one part of Ireland, why is it not possible in the rest of Ireland? If this has been the result of the rule of the British Government, are we not entitled to claim it as a proof that we have not misgoverned the country? I do not know whether any hon. Members of the House have had an opportunity of reading a book lately published called "Economics for Ireland." In that book the writer, who is an Irishman and who knows Ireland very thoroughly, and who I should say is a very able man, gives some very different reasons for the want of prosperity in the other parts of Ireland. The reason he gives is connected with the life, character, and habits of the people of whom he is one. He points out that while straining after judicial reduction of rents and the like, Irishmen have been content to pass by opportunities which lay at their doors for increasing wealth and prosperity, opportunities provided by the legislation of the British Government. I believe myself, and I say it with great respect, for my opinion is worth but little, there is more in the view so ably expressed in that book than many hon. Members of the House realise. If he has real foundation for the statement he makes with such authority, does anybody think that by breaking up the Constitution of this country, and by turning Ireland into another Canada, you are going to produce that prosperity which we are all desirous should be produced, and which, if his speech last night meant anything at all, the hon. and learned Gentleman must have meant? The hon. and learned Gentleman went on to say that the present condition of Ireland was such that it offered a golden opportunity of which Ministers ought to avail themselves; he warned them that this golden opportunity had come to them and begged them to take their courage in both hands and deal with the question in a whole-hearted and determined way. I am not going to suggest that right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite should not take that advice. I have never failed to say that it would be better and more straightforward for the Government to announce that policy which is their real aim and object, which is their real desire and the goal towards which they seek to force us, than to seek to conceal it from the British electorate by giving it a name which in no way describes what it really is. The hon. and learned Gentleman told us that the condition of Ireland was extremely improved, that to a large extent there was a decrease in crime. I rejoice that that should be the case, but I claim that as one of the results of the administration in Ireland of Unionist Governments. I believe it is by that kind of policy, and that kind of policy alone, that you will secure the real prosperity of Ireland which all of us want to see secured. It is perfectly true that there is a complete absence of overt crime in Ireland, but if this House is going to take the grave step of altering the government and Constitution in order to give to Ireland the power to control her own affairs, and to administer the affairs of the country alike over Unionists and Separatists, Unionists and Nationalists, Protestants and Catholics, they must not ignore the fact that there is in a part of Ireland—a larger part than the Government imagines—a form of boycotting as cruel and as terrible as anything of this nature that has ever been known in the past history of Ireland. We are asked to put power into the hands of men who contemptuously put on one side the law of the land, and make the law of their league obtain in a manner which is as cruel and terrible as anything ever known. I say there are in that country many scores of people who are suffering under this accursed ban, whose lives are made a misery, and who are unable to do their work because of this form of tyranny. It is not when this state of things exists that you ought to talk of extending the power of self-government and taking away the control we have over Ireland. I have often noticed that the speeches made by hon. Members below the gangway take the line which was taken yesterday by the hon. and learned Gentleman when he referred to the increase of lunacy in Ireland. I have never been able myself to trace the exact connection between the British Government in Ireland and the growth of lunacy in that country. But I observe an interesting chapter in the book to which I have just referred, "Economics for Ireland," on this very subject, and if any hon. Gentlemen think that the increase of lunacy in Ireland is a reason for turning that country into a colony like Canada, I advise them to read this book. We heard the hon. and learned Gentleman talking of the sixty-seven boards in Ireland. I believe, as a matter of fact, there are only forty-one, but as regards business the boards worth counting are only sixteen or seventeen, and it is absurd to talk of the rest as being part of the government of Ireland. Although these charges are frequently made in the House of Commons in regard to the serious effects in Ireland resulting from British rule, yet we never hear of the great strides which have been made in that country through the remedial legislation of successive Unionist Governments. We hear nothing of the work done by the Congested Districts Board and the Agricultural Department; we hear little but criticism of the work done under the various Land Acts, which culminated in the great Act of my right hon. friend the Member for Dover. Of all these things we hear little, yet I venture to say that any impartial man going through Ireland at the present moment, who knew Ireland five and twenty years ago or thirty years ago, must, if he makes inquiry with an open mind, come away—as everyone has done who has gone to Ireland and made investigation—deeply impressed by the progress and advance made not in one part of Ireland only, but throughout the whole country, and also by the fact that the legislation passed by successive Unionist Governments has not been fruitless but has already done good work in improving the condition of the people. Do not let it be supposed for one moment that I am not anxious, or those who act with me, to see the condition of Ireland much more improved. Do not let it be imagined for one moment that we are satisfied or prepared to cry a halt. The hon. and learned Gentleman the Member for Waterford referred to the cost of the government of Ireland, and he told the House quite accurately that the cost per head of the population was largely due to two causes—the cost of the police and the cost of education.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) I never said anything of the kind. The right hon. Gentleman has misunderstood me.

MR. WALTER LONG: If I misunderstood the hon. and learned Gentleman I withdraw it.

An HON. MEMBER: Police and officialism.

MR. WALTER LONG: Police and officialism, yes. Of course, if anyone makes a comparison between the number of police kept in any county in Ireland wi h the number kept in any county in England and Scotland, where there is a similar population and industries, it will be seen that the number in the Irish county is much tbe greater. But why is this? It is because there is a greater tendency amongst Irishmen to "go" for each other in a friendly way. And if proof is wan ed of the fact, I can refer the House to a recent illustration of the accuracy of what I state, in what occurred at the election for the City of Galway. That had nothing to do with British Government, nothing to do with the iniquities of British Ministers. There was a strong difference of opinion between the two sections of Irishmen. One was in favour of one form of Home Rule, and the other in favour of another. The result was that Party feeling ran high, and very soon friends cracked each others' heads. In order to protect people in those conditions there must be sufficient police to be sent from one part of the country to another. The House will remember that on that occasion the hon. Member for Mayo telegraphed to say that the number of police was not sufficient.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg pardon. The hon. Member for Mayo sent no such telegram. The hon. Member for Mayo did send a telegram complaining that there were too many police cracking the heads of his supporters and not the heads of the others.

MR. WALTER LONG: I do not think I need qualify that statement, because it shows what I have already said, that these circumstances arise in which feeling becomes very excited, and police have to be drafted at very short notice from one part of the country to another, which requires that there must be a sufficient force available. I do not care what Government might be in power, whether Unionist or Home Rule, I do not care whether the Government passed into the hands of the Home Rule Party to-morrow, the same results would follow; the same thing would occur and the same securities would have to be adopted. Therefore it is that the number of police in Ireland is excessive as compared with the number of police in other countries. The hon. and learned Gentleman brought a serious charge against the British Government, in connection with British administration, and the whole burden of his appeal rests on British administration. I admit that there is a great deal of work to be done in the way of making satisfactory provision for the most necessary work of education. There is a great deal to be done for the improvement of the *status* of the teachers, so that their duties may be discharged more satisfactorily, and that they may be more self-respecting and self-reliant in doing their work. There is a great deal to be done in regard to the number and class of teachers; but there again the hon. and learned Gentleman has laid the blame on British administration unjustly, because one of the great difficulties in connection with education in Ireland is that you have got there the purest form of denominational education, and in many a poor village of Ireland, with a small population, you have two or three schools to be repaired, equipped and maintained, where possibly one would be adequate. That is not the result of British administration. That is a cause of the difficulty which exists in Ireland, and it ought not to be attributed to British administration. You may adopt the argument, if you like, that this Parliament cannot do the work and that it must devolve some of it on other bodies. If you take that course, which is the one apparently indicated by the Prime Minister, and if you are going to make that form of devolution one which will fit in with the Constitution which you are going to create, then I am convinced, as Professor Dicey told us twenty years ago, that you might have to follow it up with other measures applying to other parts of the country, and you will have to cut up your country according to the measures applied, thus breaking up the Constitution the moment you attempt to enforce your remedies. There may be mistakes committed by the Government, but to say that they follow from the existence of a large number of boards is absurd. The new Chief Secretary will, I am sure, find that in the existing department of Dublin Castle not only are there honourable and high-minded public servants, but with the separate departments and the separate heads, save the Education Board, directly responsible to the Irish Government, an enormous advantage results. By having separate departments and distinct chiefs information can be obtained from men acting independently and responsible to the State Departments, and from that system I believe great benefits arise, and that it cannot be improved by placing the Boards all under one head. Then it is said that we should adopt Home Rule. I do feel that to attempt to justify Home Rule upon the grounds put forward by the hon. and learned Gentleman, is not just or fair to this Imperial Parliament or to either Party in it, because I am confident that much better results have followed from English administration than it is the fashion to admit in the debates in this House. No doubt we shall be told that we are resisting this proposal of Home Rule on narrow sectarian lines, because we are not willing to trust the people and do justice to them. I venture to say there is no justification whatever for any charge of that kind. I have known Ireland for forty years, and have the best reasons to be greatly interested in the country and to wish for her prosperity. I would do anything I could, consistent with the principles I hold, to advance the prosperity of Ireland, and would welcome any measure that promised to bring her prosperity. Firmly wedded though I am to certain political principles, if I thought that by a policy like this there would be found for Ireland that peace and quiet which she sorely needs, and which does exist in one part of Ireland, nothing would deter me from doing all I could towards that consummation. If those who act with me oppose Home Rule, it is not because we prejudge the case, but because we believe it will be fraught with peril to Ireland and with great disaster to the Empire as a whole. We oppose it conscientiously, because in our hearts and consciences we believe that if you give Home Rule you will do the worst day's work for Ireland and the Empire that has ever been done, and one which you will never be able to remedy.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I am much too new to my office to have recovered from my introduction to the sixty-seven boards, or the sixteen or seventeen boards to which the right hon. Gentleman refers, to be able to rise to the dithyrambic vein to which the right hon. Gentleman has attained, and I must confine my remarks, not only to a very short time, but also to a somewhat low tone. I wish I could adopt the simple remedy which the right hon. Gentleman does for the discontent and distress that exist in many parts of Ireland by a simple reference to the prosperity of Ulster. I cannot help thinking that to appeal to the Protestant garrison in Ireland and to its prosperity as an explanation for the discontent and misfortune in other parts of the country is a very singular reading of history. Supposing it had been the other way; supposing our Monarch, our Constitution, and our Church service had been those of the Church of Rome — one sometimes thinks they easily might be—and it had been the Protestants of Ulster who were subjected to penal laws and to the harsh treatment that the Roman Catholics of Ireland have received, I wonder whether then their prosperity would have been all that it now is, and whether content and satisfaction with the existing *régime* would then exist. It is all very well to support a Government when the Government is on your side. That does not require much philosophy; it does not require anything except the indulgence of your own love of aggrandisement. Therefore, I cannot really accept the right hon. Gentleman's reading of history as one in the least degree explanatory of the prevailing discontent in Ireland with their mode of government. I rejoice to acknowledge that the right hon. Gentleman admitted the comparative crimelessness of Ireland. Crime, in the ordinary sense, may be described as an exotic in Ireland; it ought not to be there at all, and when it is there you can generally trace it to one or two well-defined reasons. We now accept, and the right hon. Gentleman accepts, the crimelessness of Ireland. Of course, that deprives him of one of the arguments against entrusting the Irish people with a measure of self-government. Therefore, from the goodness of his heart and his love of truth, he really does genuinely delight in the fact that there is little crime in Ireland. At the same time, it somewhat weakens his argumentative position, which requires him to allege that the Irish people are in such a state that it would not be safe to entrust them with any large measure of self-government. He referred to the great extent to which "savage" boycotting, as he calls it, is to be found in Ireland. Although I have not been long in my office, I have been sufficiently long to be in possession of the police reports upon that subject, and all I can say is that I must have been very shockingly misinformed by those departments to which the right hon. Gentleman has paid so high a tribute. They must indeed be playing fast and loose with an inexperienced and incompetent Minister who has only been a fortnight in possession of his office, if there is any truth whatsoever in the statement which the right hon. Gentleman has made. Boycotting is limited, I should say, at the most to a score of cases [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh"]—any boycotting to which the term "savage" can be applied. As to exclusive dealing, as to cutting people, I know enough of village Nonconformity to say that if a microscopic eye was focussed on our villages as it is focussed on the villages of Ireland, we should have a record too of that method of exclusive dealing which I deplore and deprecate, but is too often almost inevitable when feeling runs high. But when you speak of "savage" boycotting, then we know what the right hon. Gentleman has in his mind; and I say unhesitatingly, from information within my reach, there is no truth or accuracy in the statement that savage boycotting exists in more than a score of cases. Such, at all events, is the information I have received. The right hon. Gentleman is almost alone in his admiration of the existing mode of the goverment of Ireland. I have followed during the last few years with much interest the criticisms of that system, made, not only by Home Rulers, but by persons connected with Ireland who have, with hardly an exception, exposed that system to much criticism. It is quite true my experience is very little. Still, the experience of a Minister of ten days' standing has a certain value, a certain freshness, because very soon he gets absorbed in the details, he becomes a part of the machine, and he may lose, perhaps, a little of that freshness of mind which he carries into his office. I must ask hon. Members of this House to suppose a man—I was myself just such a man a year ago—without any previous departmental experience who was made the head of a single office—the Education Office. I remember well taking possession of that office. My courteous predecessor, who was there, introduced me to the Permanent Secretary. I shook hands with half a dozen gentleman, heads of different sub-departments, and then, with rather more sorrow than I thought I should have displayed in the circumstances, my predecessor took up his hat, coat and umbrella, and went out to enjoy a crust of liberty and left me in possession of the office. I fell at once naturally and properly into the hands of the very experienced chief. I was indebted to him and shall always remain indebted to him, for the loyalty of his service and, for the most part, for the accuracy of his information. He gave me a bird's-eye view of the nature of my duties. He generally initiated me, very gradually, into the mysteries of the machine, and for many a long day I was pretty helpless in the matter. Well, multiply that by ten at least, and you get some notion of my condition at the present moment. I find these great departments of State, or whatever you like to call them, admirably manned. I have not a word to say, I need scarcely add, against the distinguished officials at their head. They are all remarkable men; their abilities no doubt vary—such is the habit of mankind. Of their devotion to the public service I have no doubt, nor have I any doubt whatever of the mass of information that they acquire. I do not doubt their experience, I do not doubt that they have gained, and must necessarily have gained, great knowledge of Ireland. They are the machine, and they must of necessity either work me or I must work them. It is the very rudiments of government; there is nothing peculiar about it. I am not saying anything indiscreet; I am not saying anything that everybody does not know must be the case. There is the departmental view, and I do not suppose that anybody can get on without it. Any government is better that none. There must be the official governmental point of view. All these things must exist, and most valuable they are. But it is in this country always supposed to be the great advantage of our system that you from time to time bring a fresh mind to bear upon it; and no man is ever, I think, accredited with the somewhat easily acquired title of statesman who is not supposed to be able to control his department. It is one thing to control one department — that takes time. No sensible man will begin at once—in fact he would show himself to be unfit for his office if he began at once—without making himself acquainted with the regulations. He must first acquire all the department can tell him, otherwise he is unfit to exercise any control over it. But ultimately, after he has got possession of the facts, if he is going to make any reputation or to do any good in that department, he will bring a fresh mind to bear upon it and have ideas and views of his own which must sometimes be in contradistinction, and perhaps active opposition, to the views which in the department have hitherto prevailed. All these things are obvious. Put a man at the head of one department and multiply that by ten, multiply his staff and his advisers by ten, the people who instruct him by ten, and you get some notion of the position of the unfortunate individual who is now addressing you. I do not think the Irish Government has ever received the really intellectual support of anybody who has been actively acquainted with it. It is a question of intelligence, of what is good government and what is not. Therefore, I was a little surprised to find that a predecessor of my own, for whose character and zeal I have the greatest possible respect, should, I think simply from the exigency of Party feeling at the moment, have felt himself almost bound to assert that the present government by departments in Ireland was all that was to be desired.

MR. WALTER LONG: I did not say that.

MR. BIRRELL: Then we are all of one mind. Then some reform is absolutely necessary. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to say that, because the Prime Minister is well known to be a Home Ruler, as I am, the mere fact that he entertains those opinions and gave expression to them in his speech the other day renders it absolutely essential that somebody, without a moment's delay, should rise to his feet and expound the exact provisions, or, at all events, the main outlines, of the measure we propose to introduce later on in the session. I should have thought it was very much better, from the Party point of view, that the right hon. Gentleman should have a little time to go about the country raising this Home Rule bogey and exciting, so far as he can, wherever he finds an audience, a belief in the infamous character of the provisions of this Bill which has not yet been brought in. One thing I can assure him—I know perfectly well that when he has this Bill in his hands he will say it will lead up to Home Rule. That he will say—he must say.

MR. WALTER LONG: That is not what I say. The Prime Minister himself said that any measure he would recommend for adoption should lead up to the larger policy.

MR. BIRRELL: The Prime Minister, like myself in that respect, is perfectly satisfied that ultimately the only solution that will give satisfaction to the great majority of the population of Ireland will be what is generally called a Home Rule Parliament; and, therefore, he says he would never make himself responsible for any measure which would be in any way likely to obstruct or interfere with the fulfilment of those hopes. I therefore say the right hon. Gentleman need have no alarm as to the argument he wants to present to the country, because I know perfectly well when he sees our measure he will say, as his first objection to it, that it will inevitably lead to Home Rule. He need be under no apprehension on that subject. This demand for detail is a little inconsistent with his own Leader's criticism of my friend Mr. Bryce's speech with regard to University education. The Leader of the Opposition reviled Mr. Bryce for having made a Second Reading speech on an education measure which was not before the House at all. With reference to that, as the Leader of the Opposition made a great deal about it, I should like to say Mr. Bryce asked my permission. Why he should have asked it I do not know. I was not appointed then, though he knew I was to succeed him. Mr. Bryce made his speech on a Friday, and I crossed over to Ireland—and a shocking bad crossing it was—only on Monday, and was not sworn in until Tuesday. On the following Monday—and I was not sworn in until Tuesday—Mr. Bryce asked me whether I had any objection to his receiving a deputation from the Presbyterians and making a statement to them. I said I certainly had not. I knew perfectly well that he had devoted an enormous amount of time and attention to the subject, that he was holding in his hands a great many threads, and endeavouring to secure the support of a great many different persons, and he would naturally desire before he went elsewhere to see one great party whose interests are very vitally connected with the settlement of this question. If I may criticise Mr. Bryce's speech, I am free to admit that had he shown it to me, while not quarrelling with the general outline of the scheme he unfolded, I think I should have ventured to suggest to him, knowing something of Parliamentary exigencies, that in some parts of his speech a little less rigidity of outline was desirable. Nothing adds so much to the charm of a landscape as a well-arranged bank of cloud on the horizon. These are only matters of detail. So far as he unfolded his scheme, or the Government scheme, I am the last person to have any right to complain of the course he took, but I think that, having regard to the criticism to which he has been exposed of having made a Second Reading speech on a Bill not yet in print, I should plead that as a good reason for not replying to the challenge of the right hon. Gentleman, and now proceeding to unfold even in outline the proposals of the Bill which I hope at an early date to have an opportunity of introducing to secure a better kind of government in Ireland. Everybody agrees that I know nothing of, and have had no time to make myself acquainted with, the many vexed questions which arise in Ireland. I avail myself most heartily of that concession of ignorance, having no mind to plunge into controversy at an earlier date than is necessary. I shall endeavour to bring to bear on the enormous number of Government questions vitally affecting the peace and prosperity of Ireland a fresh mind, and, as far as I can, an independent mind, and, I am sure, a most sympathetic heart. I have received from both sides of the House a great number of letters congratulating me more or less upon my appointment, and many of those letters, I think, contain a somewhat grim reference, I thought an almost unkindly reference, to the fact that the office which I hold had been the grave of many statesmen's reputations. I am bound to say that looking back, as I have had to do during the past week, upon the action of previous Chief Secretaries, I found that most of them were able, at all events, to do some good. I see opposite the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover. His name is associated with a very great measure of land purchase in Ireland, and if he is one of the statesmen whose reputation is buried in Ireland, I, at all events, congratulate him on having a very noble place of sepulture. Some day, after I have had my trial of office, I may be found creeping up within its shadow asking permission to shelter my weary bones beneath the same tomb. Perhaps I shall be able to say of it that like many another tomb it has been somewhat costly, and has not yet been wholly paid for. I associate myself with all previous Chief Secretaries, whichever side of the House they sat on, who have honestly and anxiously endeavoured to do their best. I, of course, as a Home Ruler, feel my position all the more difficult, because I cannot honestly say that I think I have any right to be where I am, or to be charged as the official head of so large a number of departments which are of necessity almost wholly concerned with exclusively Irish interests, demanding a kind of knowledge, a kind of interest, and a kind of sympathy, which is only born on the soil, and which can only be usefully entertained by residence in the country. Outsiders when they are sentimental are apt to be far too sentimental. They become more Irish than the Irish themselves, and very often associate themselves with schemes which will not bear impartial investigation on the Irish side. I, therefore, feel I am at a disadvantage in not honestly believing that the kind of thing I am called upon to do is capable of ever really accomplishing for the Irish people that which they have a right to demand. I can only assure them that I will do my best, and I rejoice to think, at all events, that when I come into this office Ireland is in a state of comparative peace and comparative crimelessness, but, undoubtedly, in a state of expectancy. It is also a time which synchronises with the existence, in Ireland, of a great number of currents of emotion and of feeling, not all in one line, affecting many subjects, and taking a good many things within their sphere not usually the subject of politics, but which do honestly represent a new spirit and a new feeling. I would invite the representatives of Ulster, and I would invite all, as far as they possibly can, to cease troubling the dry bones of a belated bigotry. All through Ulster this new feeling, I hope, exists. The time may come—we all pray it may come soon, and come ultimately I am certain it must—when Ireland will be what it ought to be—a firm and substantial increase of our strength, the pride of our hearts, as well as the joy of their own.

MR. CHARLES CRAIG (Antrim, S.) said that in regard to the rhetorical and most amusing character of the speech which had just been made by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, he could not speak too highly, but when they came to examine the contents of that speech they found that they were not expected to derive much information from it. It would make, he thought, a fitting addition to that volume of the right hon. Gentleman known by the title of "Obiter Dicta." He had told them very plainly that it would be unfair to expect him to make anything like a detailed statement as to the Irish question and, of course, hon. Members on that side of the House, and Irishmen specially, thoroughly agreed with that. They could not expect anything in the nature of a detailed explanation of the measures which he proposed to introduce this session. The right hon. Gentleman had, however, made one statement which was interesting to himself and his colleagues. He had stated that he was an ardent Home Ruler, and that the measure which would be brought in at a later date would be one which was not inconsistent with Home Rule. That, of course, they knew would be the case, but it always helped them to have it stated definitely by the Government. Hon. Members opposite were the persons who had the destinies of Ireland in their hands. He wished to point out to them that those measures which were going to be introduced by the Government at a later date were not only not inconsistent with Home Rule, but that they would be specially designed to lead up to that "larger measure," to use the words of the Prime Minister. They were going to have a measure introduced this session which, he had no doubt, would not on the face of it bear very many of the imprints of Home Rule, but if the Bill were passed the foundation stone of Home Rule would have been laid. Once that foundation stone was laid, it would only be a matter of time—it might be five, it might be ten, or it might possibly be twenty years—as to when the full measure of Home Rule would be granted to Ireland. That was the position of the Home Rule question at the present moment. The Prime Minister, and many members of the Party opposite, who, like the present Chief Secretary for Ireland, were convinced Home Rulers had made it perfectly clear in their speeches that it would be an impossibility to introduce a Home Rule Bill in the full sense of the term, such as Mr. Gladstone introduced, or a Bill conferring on Ireland a system of government more or less like that enjoyed by the British colonies at the present day. To introduce such a Bill in the present state of feeling in this country they had admitted would be an impossibility. They had also admitted that they were going about the compassing of this object by a roundabout method. Was the House of Commons of opinion that the time had arrived when Ireland should have Home Rule? The Unionist Members from Ulster said the time had not arrived, and personally he did not see any hope of that happy day arriving for many years to come. The Nationalist Members believed that it had come long ago, but that was a point which the House of Commons had to decide. Let not hon. Members delude themselves that they could pass any measure which was to be a half-way house to Home Rule. They could not do it. Once they had realised that fact—Unionists were fighting strenuously to stave off what they considered would ruin their country — then he believed that half their battle was won. What was the claim put forward by hon. Members below the gangway, and one of the reasons adduced by the Chief Secretary, for Home Rule? It was that Ireland was discontented; and they said, alluding to the Ulster Unionists, that if these changed places with the Nationalists and Roman Catholics, would the Unionists not have the same burden as the Nationalists and Roman Catholics? Did the right hon. Gentleman know his history so little that they in the North of Ireland had in their time suffered persecutions as great and striking as the Roman Catholics did 200 years ago? Did he not know that in the latter end of the eighteenth century, between 1770 and 1800, the oppression coming from the Established Church of Ireland and used against the Presbyterians of that day was so great that in a new and flourishing colony the conditions were made so hard for the Presbyterians that for a series of years there was a drain from Ulster—from the counties of Armagh, Antrim, and Down—which culminated in 1795 or 1796 in no less than 18,000 persons emigrating to America? He regretted to say that in the past—not in the immediate past—Ireland had been governed as badly as any country could be. No person who had read Irish history could have any doubt on that point. But since the Union everything had been done by England to make up for the bad time which preceded it. They had passed the Catholic Emancipation Bill, and from that time Roman Catholics had enjoyed the same rights and liberties as the Protestants in the North of Ireland. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: "Education."] He would not divert from his main argument to deal with education at that stage, but would deal with it later on. His contention was that in every way the condition of the Roman Catholics in the other provinces of Ireland and of the Protestants in the North of Ireland had been absolutely identical. It was said that in the past the industries in the South and West of Ireland had been strangled. He admitted that certain industries had been put out of existence owing to the jealousy of the people of this country. That was unfortunately true. But it was 200 years ago. Were they, however, to be told now that the present condition of Ireland was due to the action of persons who were dead and gone 150 or 200 years ago? It was absurd. Whatever was the cause of the suffering in Ireland at present, no person who had properly diagnosed the case would say that it was due to any want of thought or care on the part of the English Government during the last ninety or 100 years. The Chief Secretary had referred to the prosperity of that part of the country to which he belonged. He contended that that was the strongest argument which could be used in favour of the position adopted by the Ulster Members. The North of Ireland was less favoured by nature than most parts of the country—he did not say less than the congested districts; but everybody knew that the North of Ireland was in an incomparably better position, richer, and more prosperous than any other part of Ireland. It was all very well to scoff at that argument, but how was it to be explained? It could not be said that the industries in the North had been developed by subsidies. Their two great industries were linen manufacturing and shipbuilding. Nothing had been done for the shipbuilding industry, nothing had been done for the linen industry for the last 150 or 200 years. From the time the latter had taken root in the North of Ireland it had spread and had brought contentment and comparative riches to vast numbers of persons in that part of the land. Then as to agriculture, the farming population in the North of Ireland had prospered, though not to the extent they would all like it to have done; but to the extent that the farming community were able to live in a state of comfort which compared favourably with the farming communities of either England or Scotland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Was not that brought about by the existence of the Ulster custom?

MR. CHARLES CRAIG said the Ulster custom was set aside in 1881, although possibly it had given the Ulster farmer a good start. In 1881 the Ulster custom was granted to the tenants of all other parts of Ireland. His own impression, and that of those whose minds were still open, was that there must be some reason why they heard complaints from other parts of Ireland which they did not hear from their own district. He was inclined to think that it was a racial reason. If that was correct, then he said no very great reason had been adduced for changing the system of government under which Ulster had become comparatively prosperous and contented, and it ought to be possible for the people in other parts of the country to become the same. But if Home Rule were granted to-morrow he was certain that it would not have the effect of suddenly changing the condition of the other parts of Ireland. He particularly wished to impress on hon. Members and on those outside the House upon whom ultimately the fate of the Bill which was to be produced would depend, that whatever measure was introduced it would lead to a Home Rule Government. That was a strong argument to his mind and also to many Englishmen—it was the separation argument. They were told by the President of the Board of Trade in Belfast that separation in the full sense of the word was unspeakable and unthinkable, but he asked hon. Gentlemen to peruse the speeches not made in the House by some hon. Members, but in Ireland, and by the Leaders of the Nationalist movement not only in Ireland but especially in America, and they would see from them that the ultimate end and aim of the Nationalist movement was the complete and absolute separation of Ireland from England. That argument had no terrors for him; for long before that came about they in Ulster would have lost all that they held dear; and if they ever came within measurable distance of complete separation he would join hon. Members below the Gangway in giving the last kick. Before that time was reached all the harm which they in Ulster feared would have been done, and therefore it would not matter to them whether the north of Ireland remained part of the British Empire or not. That, however, he was sure would never happen. He had listened for four years to almost every speech made by the Leader of the Nationalist Party in the House, but the hon. and learned Gentleman had never added a new argument to those introduced twenty years ago, when Mr. Gladstone's Home Rule Bill was before the House. He therefore held that if there was no new argument there was nothing new in the position, and that the stand taken twenty years ago by English and Scottish electors should be maintained. It made no difference to Ulster Members whether the Government produced a small Bill at the present which might fit in with and ultimately form part of a greater measure, or whether they produced immediately a full blown Home Rule Bill. The effect would be precisely the same. They would prefer to know the worst at once. He believed that if the proposed Bill was passed it would be but the foundation stone for a larger edifice to follow. The Government admitted that they could not with any anticipation of success introduce a Home Rule Bill now. They said they must be circumspect. They must introduce Home Rule by instalments, and he desired to bring that home to those hon. Members opposite whose minds were perplexed on the matter. There were three classes of opinion among hon. Members. There were the full blown Home Rulers to whom no argument need be addressed. There was a second category of Members who had every desire to improve the position of Ireland and who had an idea that some measure could be introduced which, while improving the condition of Ireland, would not in any way tend towards Home Rule. Then there was a third category which he hoped was the largest of the three, those who were as much opposed to Home Rule as Ulster Members were. It was to the second category of hon. Members that he particularly addressed himself when he asked them to realise that such a Bill as would be introduced this session, no matter how small and how harmless it might appear, was designed with the one and sole object of leading up to a full measure of Home Rule. They were without details and therefore they were limited to a large extent in discussing the matter, but Ulster Members claimed that they were face to face with a crisis much graver and much more important for their country than any crisis through which it had hitherto passed. In his opinion it was fifty times more critical than the crisis when Mr. Gladstone's Bill was before the House. He only wished they were in a similar position now, so that they knew where they were. Hon. Members opposite would then realise that the sole object of the Government was to lead up to and end in Home Rule. Unfortunately they were not treated in that way. It was his desire to convince the House that the effect of this Bill would be exactly the same as a Home Rule Bill. If hon. Members considered the matter carefully he felt convinced that when they came to hear the arguments which would be adduced against the details of the Bill when it was produced they would agree with him that Ireland must be saved from one of the most ruinous Acts which any Government could pass.

Mr. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central) hoped that as a Scottish Member he might be permitted to say a few words, for, although he represented a Scottish constituency, he had an estate in Ireland. It had been assumed that the prosperity in the north of Ireland was due entirely to the race and blood which existed in that part of the country, but everyone familiar with the country knew perfectly well that the industries of that portion of the country had been specially protected by Act of Parliament, and not only so, but particular covenants were introduced in favour of the Protestants.

Mr. CHARLES CRAIG wished to point out that any assistance which had been given to the linen industry in Ireland dated back fifty years. From that time the industry had been independently self-supporting and prosperous.

Mr. C. E. PRICE pointed out, as a man who had been engaged in business, that there was nothing more difficult than to establish a new industry. Efforts had been made to establish the linen industry in Glasgow, but in consequence of the competition of Manchester, where the industry had previously been established, they had been unsuccessful. It was only because in the north of Ireland particular industries had been encouraged that that part of the country enjoyed its particular prosperity. The hon. Members who had spoken had made no reply to the statements of the hon. Member for Waterford, in regard to the decrease of the population and the increase of lunacy in Ireland. These were facts which hon. Members always ignored; they gave no explanation of the points brought forward by hon. Members and did not deal with the remedies they suggested. His main object in intervening in this debate was to impress, if he might do so, with great respect, upon the Chief Secretary for Ireland that in framing the measure which was to be brought before Parliament, he should pay every attention to the wishes and desires of the Members from Ireland. He had read through the whole of the debate on Mr. Gladstone's Land Act of 1881, and a large number of Amendments which were proposed by the Nationalists and opposed by the Government would, had they been carried, have avoided a great many of the difficulties which they had had to deal with in Ireland ever since. Nearly all the Bills which had since been proposed had been brought forward to meet difficulties which the Amendments then proposed would have avoided. Perhaps he might be permitted to say that during the summer he went through the congested districts of Ireland, and he was agreeably surprised to see the change which had been brought about in those districts through the operation of the Land Act of 1903. Anyone acquainted with some parts of the estates which he visited must have noticed the difference. The moment the people got hold of the land themselves, and had the security of the soil, they set to work in a manner which showed that the Irish people were not unindustrious and idle. To say so was a simple travesty of facts. He sincerely trusted that the measure which would be brought before the House would be a large and comprehensive one and would meet the full and legitimate demands of the Irish people.

*MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.) said that before the general discussion closed he should like to express to the House the views of an unofficial, unattached, and independent Member upon the gracious Speech from the Throne, and the discussion which had arisen out of it. The impression on his mind in regard to the Speech was one of considerable disappointment, and that disappointment had been deepened and strengthened by the course which the discussion had taken. He was glad to be able to claim the position of an unofficial, unattached, and independent Member, because if he could not on that occasion have claimed that position his allegiance would have been strained by some of the arguments advanced, and the positions taken up at the instance of the Front Bench by supporters of His Majesty's Government. He had listened with some amazement to the discussion on the New Hebrides question, and when the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, as was now often the case, was put up as the emergency man of the Government to grapple with a sudden difficulty, he recollected an occasion twelve months ago when he was called upon to justify in the eyes of this House certain cries, somewhat germane to the New Hebrides question, which had served them so well at the general election, and he wondered if the Under-Secretary would be able by any etymological inspiration or anything else to extricate the Government from the difficulties with which they were surrounded. So far as that subject was concerned, however, he desired to say openly, without reserve and candidly, that having listened to every word of the debate, and having read the reports, he pleaded absolutely guilty to the charge of the Leader of the Opposition that they on that side of the House had been party to an ordinance which only by the most subtle arts of rhetoric could be distinguished from the ordinance which they condemned twelve months before. The Under-Secretary read some parts of the Convention which seemed to him like reading prison regulations in regard to a man under sentence of death, and which appeared to show that the condition of the unfortunate man was everything which could be desired. It was not necessary in the cause of Liberalism in the country to shut one's eyes to the facts, and when the Under-Secretary for the Colonies said that though there was inconsistency there was no insincerity he was prepared to accept that statement. But if there was no insincerity there must have been either culpable carelessness or moral cowardice. He would not say that there had been the latter, though it had been suggested that we were not able to enforce all our views because we were dealing with another great Power. He preferred to assume that it was a case of carelessness, and that, the Government being young in office and its members having been engaged in elections, and the Ordinance having probably been prepared in French, there had been a bad translation of its terms as in the case of the Transvaal Ordinance. But when there was a clause that the master "shall" repatriate the labourer, and it was said that meant, if he labourer so desired, he could only say he would not be a party to such an excuse. He preferred to face the fact that there had been gross carelessness in the preparation of the ordinance. There was one point which had not yet been mentioned in this discussion, and that was that at least one Article in the Convention rather gave credence to the view of the Government that there should be no compulsory repatriation, and that was the clause which said that after a man's term had expired he should not enter into another contract for a longer period than twelve months. But so far as the treaty was concerned, the hours of labour, the rates of payment and the child labour, he preferred to face the facts, and when he went before his constituents, he would, remembering the Guiana Ordinance, the Transvaal Ordinance, and this, be bound to say it was half a dozen of one and six of the other. He re-echoed the regret expressed by hon. Members opposite that the Speech from the Throne omitted all reference to any provision for old age pensions. He looked upon that omission with some apprehension. When it was prophesied last night that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have a substantial surplus to deal with, the right hon. Gentleman shook his head as one who would say "do not let any one talk about my surplus at this time." But whatever surplus the right hon. Gentleman might have at his disposal, he should ear-mark absolutely a certain amount to the foundation of an old age pension fund. He had always believed that £10,000,000 would be sufficient, and if the surplus at the disposal of the right hon. Gentleman was not sufficient to do the whole it might be sufficient to do half. He believed that if such a fund were established by the right hon. Gentleman some of the great philanthropists, whose one desire now seemed to be to vie with each other in the monotony of their benefactions, would give the libraries a rest and devote their millions or hundreds of thousands to this object. There was also an ambiguity which was not without its ominous aspect about the statement in the Speech from the Throne with regard to the relations between the two Houses. The House was told that the Government had this matter "under its consideration." But that was not a very great advance to have made during the recess. They were assured that they were not to have constitutional reform, but that the relations between the two Houses were to be revised, and he had hoped that the Prime Minister in his speech on the previous day would have foreshadowed the lines upon which the revision was to proceed. He was present on the previous day in another place and stood next to a distinguished member of the Labour Party whose eye roamed over the imposing presence; over the heads of the judges, over the purple Peers, over the peerless peeresses in the gallery and the feathered females on the floor. Happening to catch the eye of the hon. Member he asked him "Well, what do you think of it?" and the hon. Member replied—he would quote his exact words if he might—"I think that this sort of thing will take a damned lot of abolishing." He was glad to think that that was not the task to which the Government had set their hand, but he ventured to say that when they came to close quarters they would find that the Attorney-General was more in the right when he expressed the view that nothing but a series of general elections, and finally a revolution, would make any change between the two Houses. With regard to the threat of what was called licensing reform, he was very dubious of any good result arising from any further repressive legislation. All the so-called temperance reformers in this House admitted the decreasing revenue from this source, which went to show that there was what the Chancellor would call the alarming increase of sobriety in the country. The revenue from this source was diminishing, and he, as one who might find it incumbent on him to oppose further repressive legislation of this character, protested against a policy of driving out of the trade of the licensed victualler the respectable men for the sake of a certain section of this House. He repudiated the right of that section to arrogate to itself the title of the "Temperance Party." Where was the "Intemperance Party?"

AN HON. MEMBER: What of yourself?

*MR. BOTTOMLEY said the line which divided vulgarity from wit was sometimes a very thin one, and he was afraid that the hon. Member who interrupted him was somewhat near-sighted. They had tried this policy with regard to the Nonconformists in the Education Bill and it was a complete failure; they had tried it with the anti-gambling section in the Street Betting Act, and time would prove that that also was a miserable fiasco. With these few rambling remarks, which he thanked the House for listening to, he reserved to himself full liberty of action and criticism as the plans of the Government were developed.

*Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said he particularly desired to refer to the subject of the disestablishment of the Church in Wales. This matter had been referred to by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade in speeches made outside the House, and certain utterances of his had been interpreted in a manner of which, the right hon. Gentleman had since explained, he disapproved. It was now understood that he in no way desired to postpone dealing with this subject. Glad as his (Mr. Rees') own constituents would be to see a measure of licensing reform, and a measure dealing with small holdings, nothing could compensate them for any delay in dealing with disestablishment. He thought it was his duty to say that, as he had been desired to do so by his constituents, with whom he had just been in personal communication. Beyond that he only desired to express his congratulations to the Government and Viceroy of India on the success of the visit of the Amir of Afghanistan to that country. He noted what had been said by the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, about "black birding," and wished to know whether the right hon. Member applied this expression to the working of indentured systems of labour by the Government of India in accordance with law and regulation in that behalf provided?

*Sir CHARLES DILKE: I said "black birding" was the phrase used in respect of the practice of carrying-off or kidnapping, but not under indenture, and not under Government sanction.

Mr. REES said he was glad to learn that the right hon. Gentleman did not apply such an expression to proceedings in which British subjects abroad were engaged. Recruiting agents under licence were no more blackbirders than captains in the British Mercantile Marine were beachcombers. As he had already said, he would not detain the House, who were anxious to get to the question of old age pensions, and as he enjoyed a pension himself it would ill become him to stand longer between the House and one who was to speak for so many who had not got, but wanted to get, and he hoped would get, pensions for themselves. He was, however, wholly unwilling to let the first possible opportuity pass of informing the House of what he knew most occupied the minds of his own constituents, and he believed, what the supporters of the Government in Wales had most at heart.

Mr. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars) in moving the following Amendment to the Address—

> "But humbly express our regret that your Majesty's advisers have not seen fit to include amongst the measures promised for this session one making provision of an adequate pension for the aged poor,"

said he hoped to disarm criticisms by assuring hon. Members that he, and those with whom he acted approached the subject in no carping spirit of factious opposition to the Government, but because they felt strongly on the matter, which they thought one of urgent public importance. The Amendment expressed regret that His Majesty's advisers had not seen fit to include in the list of measures for the session the provision of old age pensions.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): Mr. Speaker, on a point of order, are we to conclude since the hon. Member has raised this Amendment, that the general debate is now at an end?

*Mr SPEAKER: The hon. Member will not be far wrong in arriving at that conclusion.

Mr. BARNES said the mover of the Address had said on the previous day that the list of Bills in the King's Speech was unusually long, but he ventured to say that it was not long enough, and that the omission of any mention of old age pensions had caused widespread regret throughout the country. He would carry everyone with him, at all events, when he said that election pledges had been given for many years, as the result of which people had been led to expect that something would be done in regard to this question. Nothing had been done, and he wanted now, therefore, to call attention to what he assumed to be the fact, that the old people had been unfairly, unsympathetically, and unjustly treated, as compared with other sections and classes of the community. In regard to the young, within his own memory, and he was not old, it was customary for the boy or girl of working class parents to go out to work at a very tender age, six, seven, or eight years of age, and to work in the factory or mill, or even down the mine. As the result of the development of a sympathetic public opinion, the young had been protected against exploitation for profit, and had been given an education which more or less fitted them for the struggle of life. But those for whom he now pleaded were those who had started work at the immature age he had mentioned, who had been unable to save from their earnings, because there was not a margin beyond what was required to keep the family, from which to save, and who now in their old age found their power to continue failing them. He knew of no more pathetic figure than that of the old man or old woman, physically and prematurely worn out by long, incessant and underpaid toil, but who, with spirit still unbroken, continued, dependent on their daily work for their daily bread. Their number was constantly increasing. Formerly the employer took some little interest in his employees, but with joint-stock companies and syndicates, the human element was being eliminated from industry, and the struggle of life was becoming harder. Machinery, subdivision of labour, and all those things, had so much increased the power of production, that competition was intensified, and people were thrown out of work at an earlier age than before. The struggle to live was harder, and many, when they found old age creeping upon them, saw the workhouse, as was the case in a good many instances, as their only refuge after a life of labour. The workhouse was an unsuitable and inappropriate provision for the aged. They ought to be dealt with by this rich and powerful country on the basis of reason, justice, sympathy and common-sense. The Old Age Pension Commission of 1893 recommended sixty-five years as the age for pensions; for himself he saw no reason why the age should not be sixty years; as a matter of fact, in France pensions had been started at that age. It was stated by the Commission that there were 1,980,000 people over sixty-five years of age at that time, of whom one-third did not require anything; one-third were on the margin (one-third roughly represented 600,000), and one-third dependent on the Poor Law in some form or other. In any dealing with this question by the Government there must be no taint of the Poor Law, otherwise it would inevitably fail. Nor should any plan which was adopted be of a discriminating character—that was to say, there must be no sifting or sorting out of the needy and deserving. Who was going to be the judge of whether or not a man was deserving? Such a task would involve an inquiry into a man's heredity, his past, his special environment, and his temptations. It was a task far too big for a Government official or for anybody else. This question had been sympathetically tackled in one of our Colonies, New Zealand, some six or seven years ago, where they adopted a pension of 1s. a day, which had recently been increased to 10s. a week. He did not discuss what were their means to provide the pension; that was a point to be left to the New Zealanders themselves for settlement. In the Australian Commonwealth what did we find? One of the first Acts of that Government was to set up a Committee, which reported some eight or nine months ago in favour of some system of old age pensions to be instituted throughout the Commonwealth. Denmark and other countries had also dealt more or less sympathetically with the question. We in this country must, of course, settle it for ourselves in our own way, suitable to the habits of mind of our own people and to our own social conditions. We must settle it on a universal plan, giving pensions not as a consequence of poverty or desert but as a civil right to every man and woman who had conformed to the laws of the country and was entitled by residential qualifications. It was said that this was all very well as a principle, but the country could not afford to carry it out. In reply to a Question, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said there were 2,018,000 persons over sixty-five years of age in this country, and to give them a pension of 5s. a week would require a sum of £26,000,000. The plan he was suggesting did not propose anything of the sort, because there were a considerable number of persons in this country already provided for, not upon the scale of 5s. a week, but upon a good deal more than that, and the scheme he and his friends put forward did not propose to pay those pensions twice over. Not long ago he asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer what number of pensioners there were on the Imperial funds, and he was told that the number was 173,000, and they cost last year £7,903,000. As to the number of pensions granted to those who had been servants of local authorities, the President of the Local Government Board had informed the House that they numbered 25,000, and they cost the country £1,353,800. This latter total did not take in Scotland or Ireland, and therefore he might say that there were roundly 200,000 pensioners in this country costing £10,000,000 every year. When they heard these excuses about the country being unable to afford old age pensions, it ought to be sufficient to retort that the country was at any rate able to pay vast sums as pensions to these 200,000 persons. But there were other savings which might be effected. From a return moved for by the right hon. Member for Morpeth he found that there were in the workhouses of this country 490,000 old people who were costing not 5s. per week but more than double that amount, and it was very difficult to find out how much they did actually cost. After very careful inquiry a friend of his had informed him that it cost something like 12s. 3d. per week to maintain these old people in the workhouses. If by the initiation of some system of old age pensions they could get a great many of these old people out of the workhouses they would be able to get rid of at least half of that charge. Many of them would find a place in the homes of their own sons and daughters, whom they could help to pay the rent and mind their children, and in every way this would be a benefit and would save the country a very considerable sum of money for old age pensions. Nevertheless, he agreed that an old age pension scheme would cost a considerable sum of money, and the hon. Member for Hackney had put the cost down at £10,000,000; but even if the scheme cost so much the resources of the country were very large. When it was a question of prosecuting a war in South Africa they never inquired as to where the money was to come from, and yet it was forthcoming. If the pressure upon the Government was sufficiently strong he had no doubt the money would be forthcoming to provide old age pensions. He had discovered that £585,000,000 of the national income—amounting to some £1,700,000,000 to £1,800,000,000 yearly—was taken by a paltry quarter of a million receivers, and that constituted a very convenient source to tap. At the present time the aged were kept in a cruel and barbarous manner and were mostly maintained by the poor. It was customary for old people to live with a son or a daughter, but under an old age pension scheme there would be a redistribution of this burden, a burden which ought to be taken off the shoulders of the poor people and transferred to the receivers of those incomes which he had mentioned. In the year 1900 he found that nine persons had died and left estates amounting altogether to £19,032,000. During the intervening years the number of people leaving over a million numbered forty-six, and they had left wealth amounting to the enormous sum of £78,577,609. Therefore in view of such figures it was absolutely absurd to talk about the country not being able to afford it. It should not be forgotten that those enormous fortunes were never earned by the people who possessed them, because it was impossible for any person to earn such vast sums even if he lived to be as old as Methusalah. It was time that such sources of income as he had mentioned were tapped in the interests of the poor. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had already assured them that there was the strongest and keenest desire on the part of the Government to further this object. Only three months ago the right hon. Gentleman told a deputation the same thing, and the Prime Minister himself had assented and given his adhesion to the principle of universal old age pensions. Last year the President of the Local Government Board went the whole hog, and whilst agreeing to the proposal advised them to bring to bear sufficient well-organised pressure to compel the Government to provide funds to begin old age pensions. They were now trying to bring that reasonable and sufficient pressure to bear upon the Government. There were two ways to proceed in regard to this question. One was to provide the funds through the Budget, and the other was to make the necessary provision by a Bill. For his part he was in favour of the latter course. But he believed there was a surplus this year of £4,000,000 or £5,000,000 or something of that sort, and he should like some statement from the Government Bench as to what was going to be done with that surplus. Were the Government going to go in for retrenchment without reform? Were they going to consider the interests of the income-tax payers instead of the claims of the old and needy? If they did they would not be acting up to the expectations which had been raised by thousands of speeches made at the last election by the supporters of the Government. He hoped they would not belittle the question or belie the expectations which had been formed. He ventured to say that the public opinion of the country would back up any Government that dealt with this question in a broad, generous, and sympathetic spirit. The country had spent some of its best blood in opening up the darkest parts of the earth, and it had generally stood up for the weak and for the people under bad government in foreign countries. For his own part he refused to believe that the people of this country would stubbornly continue to leave their own kith and kin, who had spent long years in the service of the country in the workshop, to end their days in want and misery. These old people were just as much entitled to pensions as civil servants, soldiers, or sailors, and all that was wanted to bring about old age pensions was a strong lead from those who sat in the seats of authority. Therefore he begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

MR. HODGE (Lancashire, Gorton), in seconding the Amendment, said he thought the time for talking on this subject had almost passed and the demand made by the mover should now be given effect to by action on the part of the Government. It was not necessary to refer to the pledges and promises of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, because they expected him to fulfil his promises. No less than four-fifths of the Members of this House were pledged to support the principle of old age pensions. As an illustration of the necessity for a scheme of this character, he would refer the House to the recent discharges which had been made by the London and North Western Railway at Crewe. He hoped that something would be done to prevent these old veterans from having to end their days in the workhouse. His hon. friend who moved the Amendment had referred to the fact that continental countries had systems of old-age pensions. Englishmen were fond of boasting that there were no other men on earth like them—unless it be Scotsmen. He hoped that the reproach on this country, so far as old-age pensions were concerned, would be done away with. At one time he used to wish that he was an income-tax payer, and after he became one he dared say that like most other people he grumbled. But the more he paid the happier he was, because it meant more income. He should like to see the income-tax remain at a shilling, if that would enable the Government to concede old-age pensions. He trusted that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be not merely sympathetic on this matter, but that he would state to the House exactly what the Government intended to do.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question to add the words, 'But humbly express our regret that Your Majesty's Advisers have not seen fit to include amongst the measures promised for this session one making provision of an adequate pension for the aged poor.'"—(*Mr. Barnes.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): I much regret, as I am sure will everybody in all quarters of the House, the disability which prevents the Prime Minister from being in his place to-day; but I hasten in the name of the Government to say that we are in entire sympathy with the objects the hon. Gentleman has so well described; although, of course, this being in the form of an Amendment to the Address, and therefore according to the rules of Parliamentary procedure equivalent to a vote of censure on the Government, we could not vote for the Motion. Something has been said by the hon. Member who moved the Amendment with regard to the pledges given in the past by individuals and by Parliament. So far as I personally am concerned, I have never at any time given any pledge to my constituents or, indeed, to anybody else on this subject of old-age pensions; not because I did not feel quite as strongly about it as I think anybody in the House; but because I have always been oppressed by the magnitude of the problem which had to be dealt with and by the undesirability of making specific promises on particular matters until you see, with some degree of clearness at all events, your way towards their redemption. But I go quite as far as either of the hon. Gentlemen who have spoken so feelingly to-night and say that in my view—I said so a year ago in this House and I repeat it to-night—the figure of a man or a woman who, in old age, through no fault or default, is compelled to beg bread or lodging, is an eyesore in our social system, and a standing and, indeed, a crying reproach to our statesmanship. I can conceive no object of any politician—I do not care to what Party he may belong—whose privilege it is to be able to propose measures to Parliament with some chance of their being accepted by a majority of this House, which ought to be more dear to his heart or more coveted by his ambition than the possibility, if it be a possibility, of submitting to the House of Commons a workable scheme of old-age pensions for the people of this country. Everybody will admit that the problem is a grave one, and the difficulties in the way of a practical solution are considerable. I think they are sometimes a little exaggerated. When we have to read out, as I have had to do in answer to questions of hon. Gentlemen opposite, a bare enumeration of the persons who exceed a particular age—60 to 65 or even 70, it is almost equally formidable whichever way you take it—and multiply that number by a pension of 5s. a week, you get into millions and tens of millions before you know exactly where you are. I do not myself think that these figures fairly represent what would be the net cost in the long run of a system of this kind to the taxpayers of the country. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment has indicated a number of categories of necessary and reasonable deductions, and if the matter had been gone into in detail he would quite agree with me that that number might have been added to very substantially. Indeed, one of the great difficulties on which a practical politician, a Minister of the Crown, has to count in dealing with the subject is to form even an approximate idea of what the ultimate charge, after you have made all these deductions and economies, to the taxpayer would be. I content myself by saying that the amount is in some quarters, in my opinion, exaggerated. At the same time, no one who has gone into the matter will deny that the problem is a very large one, of which the practical solution can only be effected, consistently with the maintenance of our present fiscal system—I say advisedly, gathering from some movement of the hon. Gentleman the Member for Sheffield that he intends to take part in the discussion—that consistently with the maintenance of our present fiscal system the practical solution can only be brought about in two ways, or by a combination of two methods. First, by economies in other branches of public expenditure, and when we remember the enormous figures by which our expenditure on these branches has risen during the last twenty years, I for one am far from despairing as to the prospects of such economies being made. Secondly, by some considerable readjustment both of the methods and of the objects of our taxation consistent with the main governing principles of our fiscal system, from which I, at any rate, do not intend ever to depart. "Ever" may seem to the hon. and gallant Gentleman a long word; but, as far as I can at present forecast, it is in those ways only that you can make solid and fruitful advance along the road towards the solution of this problem. I say again what the Prime Minister and I myself said in answer to a deputation of hon. Gentlemen some weeks ago, that in our view there are two conditions of a practical kind to which any system of old age pensions must conform. In the first place, I reject as altogether inadmissible and unworkable the so-called contributory schemes. I do not believe it is possible to adjust contributory schemes in such a way as that the burden will fall equitably on the shoulders of those who ought to bear it, and the result you want to attain—a really genuine system of pensions for old age—be really secured. The second condition to which we attach equal importance is that both in the working and in the administration of any such scheme it should be dissociated from what I may call the ordinary machinery of the Poor Law. It ought not to be regarded as a substitute for any of those doles or pauperising subventions which at the present time, and under our present system, inflict disabilities and carry with them a certain amount of public discredit. Where am I going to find the money? That is the practical question after all. I am as anxious as the hon. Gentleman to make a start; but let me say that I have long since come to the conclusion that it is not necessary—I am not sure that it would be either expedient or politic—to proceed by what I may call a direct frontal attack, and attempt to take the whole position at a single blow. I believe, on the contrary, that you will have to proceed more or less tentatively and by stages. But I am most anxious—more anxious, I believe, than any other Member in the House—to make a beginning. The hon. Member spoke of my being the prospective possessor of a surplus of £4,000,000 or £5,000,000. I do not know where he got his information; but it seems to me that there is considerable confusion in the public mind—or at any rate in some quarters—on this question of the existence or the size of a surplus. We use the term surplus to describe two entirely different things. There is, on the one hand, the realised balance of the year, with which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has nothing to do; and there is the estimated or prospective surplus of the forthcoming year, which it is the business of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to dispose of to the best of his ability. The figure which has been quoted—considerably in excess, as far as I can gather, of what is likely to be the actual surplus—applies only to the expected realised surplus of the present year, which has been artificially and accidentally augmented by a number of windfalls the recurrence of which we are not in the least degree entitled to expect. It may be that an unwonted mortality among a limited class of persons known as millionaires adds to the revenue in a particular year and therefore seems the subject of congratulation to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. But then the exceptional number of deaths among millionaires is no reason for expecting a continuance of that source of income, and so it may be the reverse of fortunate for a Chancellor. The full realised surplus of the year must go by the operation of law to the reduction of debt—a very good purpose from which I would not for a moment ask Parliament to depart. Whatever the surplus might be which we could apply to this or any other purpose, it must be a prospective surplus, the dimensions of which it will be quite impossible to estimate until we have the year's Budget presented in April; and I am sure my hon. friends will not ask me now, in the middle of February, to anticipate a statement which it will, later, be my duty to make as to a surplus, if any, and the purposes to which I may propose to apply it. I must really ask, as all Chancellors of the Exchequer have asked, that in this matter I shall be left with a free hand until that time comes. If, when that time comes, when the disclosure is made of the financial conditions of the year and the requirements of taxation, the purposes to which a surplus, if any, is proposed to be applied do not commend themselves to the judgment of the House, a vote of censure on the Chancellor of the Exchequer will compel a recasting of his proposals. But, in accordance with reason and precedent, I must not be asked, at this time of the year, to make a premature disclosure. I must ask hon. Gentlemen to give me a little longer lease of their confidence. I have told them of my aspirations and where my sympathies lie; and I should be guilty of an imprudence and of something approaching to political dishonesty if I were to make anything in the nature of a specific promise in the absence of knowledge that I have the means effectively to perform it. Speaking frankly, for myself and the Government, there is no object within the sphere of social reform we are more desirous to have a share in bringing about than the starting of a really effective scheme, even though it be on a small and limited scale, on lines socially and financially sound for further development. There is no object my colleagues and myself more ardently desire, none which has more constantly engaged our thoughts and hopes; and if and when the time comes, as I earnestly hope it may, when we can invite the House to take effective steps towards the solution of the question, it will be with the universal goodwill of all Parties and confidence that we are making in a real and substantial stride in advance along the path of true social reform.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) said he fully recognised the position taken by the right hon. the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that at this period of the session he should not be called upon to anticipate his annual financial statement. Any proposal to be brought forward by the Government, or from other parts of the House in regard to old-age pensions, should be discussed on its merits apart from all Party feeling. They were all anxious to find a practical, workable solution of the question, and to take a division now, when it was technically a question of confidence in the Government, would be misleading. Therefore, after what the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said, he hoped the Amendment would not be pressed.

*MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) hoped the House would allow him to state a few reasons for opposing this Motion. The proposal embodied in it was not desirable, and even if it were desirable, it would be unattainable, for it was impossible to find the money for it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had indicated a desire to begin in a small way, but they all knew how from small beginnings expenditure had a way of growing rapidly. Not long ago he had pointed out that to give a pension of 5s. a week at the age of sixty-five would cost £26,000,000 a year, and where was the fund from which such an amount could be drawn? Hon. Members had referred to the fact that we had spent so much money on the South African War, but that was no reason to justify us in spending £26,000,000 more. It was just because we had spent so many millions in South Africa that we had not the money for old-age pensions now. He knew that some people believed that a very large revenue might be obtained from a graduated income-tax. The late Select Committee on the subject had reported that only a few millions would be realised from such a source, and Sir Henry Primrose expressed great doubts as to whether any additional revenue at all would be obtained in that way. It was generally agreed that a shilling income-tax in time of peace was too high a tax to be maintained. Every Member had come to the House pledged to economy and to a reduction of taxation, and it would be very remarkable if one of their first acts was to increase the expenditure of the country by £26,000,000 a year. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said he would begin in a small way, but he would point out to the right hon. Gentleman that that was exactly the argument used by the tariff reformers in favour of protection—they also wanted to begin in a small way.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Hear, hear.

*MR. HAROLD COX: Exactly; his hon. and gallant friend opposite was perfectly wise in his generation in supporting the Resolution, for the surest way to promote protection was by public extravagance. That had been the case in the United States of America. It would be rather strange if the Party returned to maintain free trade should act as the forerunners of the Tariff Reform League! In regard to beginning in a small way, they had had extremely valuable information from various Royal Commissions and Select Committees which had investigated the subject. Lord Rothschild's Committee examined a hundred schemes for beginning in a small way, and they came to the conclusion that not one of them was workable. Then they had a Select Committee of which Mr. Chaplin was chairman. That Committee recommended a scheme whereby persons earning less than 10s. a week should be entitled to a pension of 7s. a week. But that involved them at once in the difficulty of trying to draw a poverty line, because a man who was just above the poverty line would be taxed to support a man just below that line. For instance, a man who had an income of 11s. a week would be taxed to pay a pension of 7s. a week to a man who had 9s. a week, thus making the income of the latter 16s. a week as against 11s. a week to the former. In the existing system of the administration of the Poor Law there was nothing so grossly unjust as that. Mr. Chaplin's scheme also proposed that there should be an investigation into the character of the recipients of the pension. He could hardly imagine anything more degrading than the kind of inquiry that would be necessary. Therefore, we were driven back to what was known as the "universal scheme," under which everybody, whatever his character or wealth might be, should still be entitled to his pension of 5s. a week. In London and other large towns 5s. would be insufficient, and to raise it to 7s. a week would mean the addition of £10,000,000 a year to national expenditure. Then why should the age for the receipt of a pension be fixed at sixty-five? Many men were worn out with hard work at fifty; on the other hand there were a great many men in this country who were physically fit at seventy or even eighty, and able to continue doing useful work for their country, thus supporting themselves in the manner most agreeable to themselves. If they were to lower the pension age to fifty the cost would be enormously increased. On the other hand, if they fixed the age limit at sixty-five what were they to do with the men who were a little under that age. The man who was getting 5s. a week in the way of old-age pension could take on work at a lower wage, and therefore the natural consequence would be that the employers would discharge men under sixty-five years of age, and employ men over sixty-five years of age, because a man who was over sixty-five years of age would be able to work 5s. a week more cheaply. The result would be that men under the age limit would be discharged and the men over it would do their work more cheaply; so that men would be thrown out of work because other people had pensions. That argument might be met by hon. Gentlemen saying that the man who had a pension should not be allowed to work, but if they were to allow a man who got a £1,000 a year pension to work, they could not say to a man who had 5s. a week that he should not do anything to add to so scanty a sum. They were therefore in a dilemma, because they had to do an injustice either to the men who had reached the pension age or to the men who had not yet reached it. On whose behalf were old-age pensions asked for? They were asked for on behalf of those who had made no provision for themselves. But why had they made no provision for old-age? There were only two possible reasons. Either because, they had not earned sufficient to enable them to do so, or because they had misspent their earnings. [AN HON. MEMBER: Had not been paid enough.] That was what he meant. Either they had not been paid enough in wages or had misspent what they earned. He would take the second case first, the case of the man who had misspent his earnings. An hon. Member opposite had said that a good many people in the workhouses would be able to get out if only they had pensions. He denied that absolutely. He had visited many workhouses, and everywhere he heard the same tale, that they could not let these people out even if they had the pension, because eighty to ninety per cent. of the people in the workhouses were there through drink and drink alone. There was one fund from which they might get the amount necessary to pay for old-age pensions, and that was the money spent upon drink. He was told that a sum of £170,000,000 a year was spent upon drink. That would supply all the old-age pensions they wanted. But how could they secure that fund except by appealing to the man to abstain from drink and provide for his old age. If, however, they said to any workman "Drink away as much as you like, for when you grow old, you shall be supported in comfort at the expense of your colleagues who have not drunk," then clearly they were subsidising drunkenness. If they did that, they were taxing men who spent their money well, in order to subsidise the men who spent their money ill. Might he point out also, that it was by no means certain that even if they paid these pensions they would diminish the number of persons in workhouses. They might indeed even increase them. He was going over a workhouse the other day, and he asked whether they had any youngish people there, and the master said—

> "We have an exceptional number of youngish men here, and the reason is that it is a pay station for Army pensioners. They draw their pensions once a quarter, spend the money in drink and then come back into the workhouse."

There they had a case in which the pension system was actually feeding the workhouse, and he gave that as an illustration of the way in which pensions might increase the number of paupers. That was happening in New Zealand at the present moment. Many people drew their pensions, spent the money, and then had to go to the workhouse. Turning to the other question of insufficient earnings or payment, that he believed was the main reason why a large number of people did not make provision for their old age, but even that, in his judgment, was not a sufficient reason. He knew agricultural labourers who, during the greater part of their lives, had only been drawing 15s. a week and they had made provision for their old age. They were all agreed that owing to our wise custom of observing Sunday in this country, a man must earn in six days a week enough to keep him seven days. Everybody recognised that, and nobody had been mad enough to propose that the State should provide a pension for a man's Sunday. If, however, there was the obligation upon a man to earn enough by six days work to keep him for seven days, surely there was an obligation upon him to earn enough during his youth and prime to provide for his old age. If they gave a man an old-age pension they relieved him from this obligation. He held that one of the duties of a workman was to combine with his fellows to raise the rate of wages, and if he did not do that, because he was looking forward to the future pension, he was injuring his class, and the State would be subsidising him to do injury to them. It might be argued that the obligation lay on the employer: he must say that he thought it was the duty of the employer to assist his workpeople to organise a system of old-age pensions. Many employers already recognised this obligation, but if State pensions were granted then such employers would be taxed as well as those who neglected their duty. It might be said that there were industries in which it was impossible for the employer to pay a sufficient wage to enable a man to provide for his old age, but he did not want industries kept in this country which made it impossible for a man to provide for his old age. Hon. Members opposite had used an argument which was quite fallacious, although many people were very fond of using it. They said that the State paid its civil servants and soldiers and gave them at the end of their service a pension; why should it not pay a pension to the wounded soldiers of industry? The State paid these pensions, not in its character of the collector of taxes, but in its capacity of an employer of labour. It made a bargain with its employees. It said "We will pay you so much during your working time, and at the end of that time will pay you a pension," and just because of that contract, the civil servant or the soldier accepted lower wages. But there was no contract of service between him and his hon. friend opposite, and there was no reason why his hon. friend should pay for a pension for him. He had never been in his hon. friend's employ—if he had, he had no doubt he would have been helped to make provision for his old age—but there was no obligation between them, except he hoped the obligation of friendliness, and there never had been any obligation between them to entitle him to go to his hon. friend and ask him to support him in his old age. They had to remember that it was ultimately from the private taxpayer that all public money came, and what they had to ask themselves was why should they take money from A. to subsidise B.? The hon. Member opposite had described this as only a redistribution of wealth. Undoubtedly the distribution of wealth in this, as in most countries, was very unequal, but he personally never laid much stress on the unequal distribution of wealth, because it seemed to him far more important that we should devote our efforts to creating a larger total for all; he believed that by so-doing we should automatically secure a better distribution. His objection to the socialist scheme was that they went about the matter in the wrong way. The only way to secure a better distribution of wealth was to get better wages for the working classes. If they got better wages for the working man it meant the lessening of the power which belonged to the rich man and the increasing of the power which belonged to the poor man, and they got redistribution of wealth in a way which was solid and permanent and could not slip away. But if they said "We do not care about more wages but care only about old-age pensions," they might diminish the incomes of the rich, but they would not add to the incomes of the poor. They would destroy the independence of the poor and make them dependent upon the charity of the State in their old age. His ideal was, that the time should come when every working man in this country should earn amply sufficient to enable him to provide money to support him in his old age. The mere sum of 6d. a week from the time when a man was under twenty, would supply him with a pension when he reached the age at which he needed it. Sixpence a week was the sum which the Chancellor of the Exchequer was taking from the agricultural labourer as the tax on tea and sugar, and if they abolished the tax on tea and sugar the agricultural labourers would be able to secure old-age pensions for themselves. The country would also get this advantage, that the working classes, having practised self-denial while they were young, would still practise it when they were old and maintain themselves without going to the workhouse. Those men, on the other hand, who had exercised no self-control when young would be unfit to take care of themselves when they got old. They would be the kind of man for whom the workhouse existed. Therefore he said that old-age pensions would not do the thing hon. Members wished. He was very much touched by what the hon. Member opposite had said about old people living with their children and grandchildren. That was an ideal which they all wished to see realised, but he thought that it would best be attained by teaching men and women that while young it was their duty to strive to obtain good wages and to combine for that purpose, and in addition to have sufficient self-control to spend their wages well so that in their old age they could enjoy their independence.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that this was a subject in which he had been interested for many years, and he hoped the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not think that in supporting the Amendment of the hon. Member for the Blackfriars Division of Glasgow he was supporting it in any Party spirit. When he sat on the back benches opposite in 1903 he brought in a similar Motion on the Address and divided the House upon it, not so much to call attention to the question of old age pensions as to the distress due to want of employment, a kindred subject. That was a question which was pressed upon their attention more and more every day, and if the Government ardently desired to do something in mitigation of this evil it was a matter of surprise that they did not mention it in the King's Speech. The old age problem was one that pressed very much upon us and the pressure was constantly increasing, because of the increasing difficulty of obtaining employment in old age largely owing to recent legislation. It was an undoubted fact that the liability attaching to employers at the present time for injury to workmen in the course of their employment made it imperative for the employers in their own interests to be very careful whom they employed in the great enterprises in which they were engaged. Those representing industrial constituencies constantly heard complaints that men found it increasingly difficult to find employment when they showed any trace of failing due to old age. If that was the case, largely owing to the action of this House itself, it was absolutely necessary for Parliament to find some means of compensating these unfortunate people who, by its act, had been placed in this position, and who either found it difficult to obtain employment or had been unable to put by sufficient for their old age. The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had made one very important admission. He understood the right hon. Gentleman to say that he found it extremely difficult to find the necessary funds for this purpose consistently with the maintenance of our present fiscal system. That being so, he hoped the right hon. Gentleman would modify in some degree the word "never" which he had used in connection with his intention of departing from our present fiscal system. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would not dwell too much upon that word, because they would never bring it up against him if he saw fit to change his opinions. The fiscal system of this country was largely responsible for the difficulty the people found in getting remunerative employment at the present time, and by a modification of that system we could easily raise all the funds necessary for old age pensions. The cost of our poor law system at the present time in round figures approached £14,000,000 a year, and the Return of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board for the six months ending January 31st, 1906, showed that there were 1,000,000 persons—or one out of every thirty-seven—in England and Wales who were in receipt of Poor Law relief. That was a terrible blot on our social system. Indoor pauperism showed a tendency very largely to increase, and able-bodied paupers were becoming more numerous. The indoor pauper of this country cost the community £14 a year, and the outdoor £6 18s. 3d. That was a very large amount, and a serious drain upon the public; and if anything could be done to improve the system, and take the blot of pauperism from our midst, it ought to be the highest object of a statesman and a Government to do it. We had passed through a year of comparatively good trade, but what did that admirable work, the *Labour Gazette*, show? It showed that although the number of trade unionists out of employment on the 31st of December was rather less than the year before, namely, 29,212, yet, nevertheless, upwards of 80,000 had been registered by either trade union secretaries, labour bureaux, or relief committees as being at the present time out of employment. Anyone who gave the matter a moment's thought must know perfectly well that the figure of 80,000 did not represent the real state of the case, but only represented the very worst cases. The cases themselves were much more numerous, but even if they were not, when one recollected that for every name registered there had to be added a considerable number of dependents—five was the average—it would be seen that an enormous number were suffering to an inordinate extent. When also we found that one out of every three over sixty years of age was dependent upon Poor Law relief it showed that the number of old people who had no other resource than the workhouse in the winter of their lives was great indeed. Anything that could be done to remedy this condition of affairs ought to be done at the earliest possible moment. The hon. Member, in moving this Amendment, had mentioned France and other countries as being ahead of us in this matter, but he was surprised that the hon. Gentleman, he supposed by an inadvertence, had not mentioned Germany. Germany certainly led the way in this direction. Not only had it an admirable system of old age pensions, but it compelled thrift in so far that it compelled the employers to deduct for the purpose of old age pensions a certain proportion of the wages paid to every person in their employ. Germany had therefore taken the lead and had conducted these transactions in such a way that they did not pauperise. There was no escape. The book of the employer had to be verified every quarter by the local authority, the amount was paid in stamps, and the whole system worked very easily and with perfect satisfaction. There might be great difficulty in bringing such a system into force, because of its compulsory character.

MR. ASQUITH: The contribution of the State is very small.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said the contribution of the State was very small, but the result was very satisfactory, though the means by which that result was attained might not suit our own people. We had an admirable institution in this country, perhaps as successful as anything in any other part of the world — that was the institution of friendly societies. There were some 12,000 lodges of registered friendly societies, and he had always been of opinion that this matter might be solved by a contribution to friendly societies in respect of old age pensions. Unfortunately, when he brought this matter forward some years ago, he went rather fully into the plan for dealing with it, and attention was more concentrated upon that than upon the effect to which it was directed. The mover of the Amendment had erred somewhat in the same way. He had not been content with calling attention to the subject of putting the onus upon the Government, on whom it must lie, to deal with it, but he had gone in some detail into the way in which he himself would solve the difficulty. It was a mistake for individual Members to take upon themselves the functions of the Government of the day. He did not wish himself to be in that category, though he must say that, if asked by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, he could suggest means by which the money could readily be obtained. There could be no question about it, apart altogether from the fiscal question, that the competition of manufactured goods coming into this country was increasing to an enormous extent. The latest Return showed that nearly £156,000,000 of whole or partly manufactured goods were imported into this country last year.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.): How much was exported?

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: The hon. manufacturer can see for himself the figures.

MR. MYER: I rise to a point of order, Sir. I want to know whether I should be described as an hon. manufacturer. I do not think it is Parliamentary.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said he only meant it in the most courteous way, and he should not have thought the hon. Member would think it necessary to call attention to the remark. The hon. Member had no doubt studied these Returns, and the figures had increased in this way from £9,000,000 in 1851, when we were supposed to be the workshop of the world. To raise the whole £15,000,000 which the Chancellor of the Exchequer said was necessary for old age pensions, 10 per cent. on wholly manufactured goods, and 5 per cent. on partly manufactured goods, would provide the whole of the money required, and the thing was done, wholly independent of the surplus, or a reduction of armaments —which would be serious to Sheffield, and expose it to a very great danger indeed—and wholly independent of the method of taxation or anything else. There was the £15,000,000 at once, which the Chancellor of the Exchequer could distribute in pensions of thirty or forty pounds a year to every aged person who required one. How very much better that would be than talking about the matter.

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. and gallant Member is adopting the course which he said the hon. Member should not have adopted, by suggesting a means for raising the money. Would the manufactured goods continue to come in?

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said 2s. in the pound on wholly manufactured goods, and 1s. in the pound on partially manufactured goods would not keep them out. Did the right hon. Gentleman call that a prohibitive duty? He was not proposing a prohibitive duty of 131 per cent. as in Russia, nor seventy or eighty per cent., as in the United States; such duties might keep the goods out. If the right hon. Gentleman was so desirous of bringing about old age pensions, and only experienced the difficulty of finding the cash, let him go home and study this point, and bring in a Bill directly the Address was done with—a Bill of three or four lines would be enough; they would pass it in two or three sittings, and the thing would be settled without the slightest difficulty in the world. He desired to give his fullest support to the hon. Member who had moved the Amendment, and he hoped he would have the courage of his convictions, and take a division, so that they might know who voted for it and who voted against it. Even if they beat the Government he did not mean them to resign at all, but let them bring in and pass a measure, and they would all be a happy family.

*MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) said that in discussing this subject some months ago the House of Commons accepted the principle of old age pensions. They had now gone a step further, because when they had the interview with the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, it was admitted, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer had admitted that night, that the scheme must not be a contributory one. In fact, as in all these debates, they had come round to the question of how the funds were to be provided. His feeling was that until they got the Chancellor of the Exchequer to budget for old age pensions and to have the courage to say that instead of taking 1d. off tea or 2d. off the income-tax, he would devote the amount to old age pensions, the financial side of the question would not have a chance of being dealt with. The temptation to every Chancellor of the Exchequer, when he introduced his Budget, was to take off taxes, and often the pressure brought to bear upon him by private Members was strong. Until they got some system of ear-marking taxes for old age pensions, he was not very hopeful of the subject being tackled in earnest. If the taxes were not earmarked, the result was that the surplus of one, two, or four millions, whatever it was, would be used up for other purposes than that of old age pensions. All of them last January, at least all on that side of the House, had made great use of the £27,000,000 extra taxation which was put on by the late Government for war purposes six or seven years ago. Tea, spirits, beer, sugar, income-tax, each contributed to that war taxation; and the man who earned 20s. a week, paid something towards the extra taxation. The man with 30s. a week who supported his family on tea, sugar, and other comestibles, was helping to pay the taxation of the country. Thirty millions was spent on the Army and £30,000,000 on the Navy, and the man with 30s. a week asked himself why all the money coming from indirect taxation should go in that way, while those who paid the indirect taxation got nothing from it. He felt that there was a great deal too much said about the pauperising system of old age pensions. It was forgotten that the man with a small wage, who brought up a family, was paying already towards the taxation of the country; he was justified in saying, even from the economic point of view, and even on the Member for Preston's argument as to contributions, that everyone was contributing towards it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer could claim ten, twenty, or thirty millions, and they on that side of the House would certainly welcome some sort of provision in this way; they would feel that it was not extra taxation such as to be a burden. £27,000,000 of extra taxation was put on for a definite purpose within the last seven or nine years. If the country could stand that amount for a war in South Africa, surely it could stand something for this beneficent reform which would give greater self-respect and less of the feeling of pauperisation to the hard working wage earners of this country. It had been said that employers should make this provision. At the present time many employers did so, and he had done it himself with his own employees for the last fifteen years. They could, however, only do it when the men were stable in their employment, because it handicapped a man to employ him for twenty years and then turn him off because his particular job came to an end. A man might leave his employment at the age of forty or forty-five, and any benefit which might be due to him from his employers in the shape of a pension he would lose. If they adopted the system of employers providing for aged work-people they would at once lose the mobility of labour, which at the present time was in the interest of both the employer and the employed. He welcomed the promise which had been made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to make a beginning, for he would be very greatly disappointed if the Liberal and Labour Members of this House returned to their constituencies at the end of the present Parliament without having taken some step to bring about this much-needed reform.

*MR. BRACE (Glamorganshire, S.) said he desired to support the Resolution which had been moved by his hon. friend, and if it was pressed to a division he should feel obliged to vote against the Government, because he had looked forward to an old age pension scheme being included in the measures mentioned in the King's Speech. The speech which had been made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer gave him some encouragement, and did not make him so anxious to press the question to a division. He felt that this was a highly complex problem, and any Minister who took the question in hand was not asking too much if he asked for a reasonable time to consider the subject fully in order that his proposals might give some promise of a permanent solution. The hon. Member for Sheffield, as he expected, worked up to tariff reform at the end of his speech. He had stated that it was not the duty of a private Member to suggest ways and means in regard to old age pensions, but the hon. Member did ultimately suggest tariff reform as the remedy. Personally he was a strong supporter of old age pensions, but if this country adopted tariff reform, there would be not only no old age pensions, but very much lower wages. He had listened to the speech of the hon. Member for Preston with amazement, for how in these days one could hold such opinions he could not understand. There was a great feeling of providence among the workers of the country, which acted as a propelling force towards saving and providing for old age, if their wages were sufficient. He had been told of cases of agricultural labourers in receipt of 12s. per week being expected to put a little on one side for a rainy day. His opinion was that if the hon. Member for Preston had to live on 12s. per week he would find them all rainy days. It was because wages were not sufficient as a rule to permit men to put anything on one side that they ventured to ask the Government to establish an old-age pension scheme. He was not particular whether they proceeded by way of a Bill or of a Resolution. All he was anxious about was to see an old-age pension scheme established. It was neither a sound nor a decent argument for a wealthy nation that could find £250,000,000 for a great war to say that it was unable to find money to protect the aged poor in the autumn of their days. Last year was a record one in regard to trade and commerce, and it was a year of the greatest commercial and industrial prosperity we had ever known. Surely that was an important factor to be taken into consideration. Another important factor was that the nation was now at peace with all the world, and no money would be required in the coming Budget to make preparations for a war. Consequently there never was a time more favourable for creating an old-age pension scheme. If it was a question of finding the money they only needed to consider the fact that there were certain persons in this country deriving immense incomes from mineral royalties, and this was a source of wealth which might very well be taxed. Then there was the taxation of ground values, but he preferred to leave those questions to the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Happily they had in the right hon. Gentleman a Minister in distinct sympathy with their proposals. When he remembered the speeches which had been made in all sincerity by the leading members of the present Government he had no hesitation in concluding that, as this House by a unanimous vote last year settled the principle of old-age pensions, money would be found during this session for the establishment of an old-age pension scheme. It was absurd to talk about old-age pensions pauperising people, because we should only be doing for our soldiers of industry what we had already done for our soldiers of war. When a man had given a full life to the service of the State producing a share of the nation's wealth, surely he ought to be assured of an amount of money that would allow him to spend the end of his days in comfort and respectability. They could not place these pensions as a charge upon industries, and in his opinion it was the duty of the State in its full responsibility to its citizens to provide the funds. He approached this question from the point of view of the responsibility of citizenship. When he spoke of the claims of labour he spoke of something that was very near to him, because with the workers he was bone of their bone. During the last vacation in the meetings he had addressed in his constituency, of all subjects mentioned or discussed none produced such marvellous enthusiasm as the idea of establishing an old-age pension scheme. He hoped the Government would take up this question with courage. He believed that the nation as a whole would rejoice with the workers and compliment with gratitude the Government if they made use of the present favourable opportunity for establishing an old-age pension scheme.

*Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.) said he represented a constituency which was in a large degree a microcosm of the nation at large, inasmuch as it contained a few rich men and many poor ones. He had in his own division again and again advocated old-age pensions with all the enthusiasm possessed by the hon. Members who had just sat down, but he did not believe that any man in this House or out of it ought to rise to advocate old-age pensions unless he was perfectly clear where the money was to come from, because he might be raising hopes which he did not know how to fulfil, and that was neither wise nor statesmanlike. He agreed that there was not much need to argue the merits of this question, but its demerits had been very strongly and courageously put before them by the hon. Member for Preston, with whose views on this occasion he found himself largely in disagreement. If labour were properly paid he quite agreed with the hon. Member for Preston that the workers ought to provide their own old-age pension, and those who argued for old-age pensions were admitting that labour was underpaid. He thought that his hon. friend overlooked the fact that a labourer, whether he worked mentally or physically, worked not only for his employer, but for the nation at large, and that the nation as a conscious entity was coming increasingly to regard itself as an organisation. When that was once realised it was seen that the worker was not only a worker for an employer, but that he was in a very real sense a contributor to the greatness and wealth of his country, and, therefore, it became the duty of the State to assert itself consciously on his behalf. Several views had been put before the House in regard to the matter of ways and means, which, it seemed to him, lay at the root of the question. The hon. and gallant Member for the Central Division of Sheffield had brought forward the fiscal question, but the Chancellor of the Exchequer had reminded him that they could not at one and the same time keep goods out of the country and have goods yielding a revenue to the Exchequer. On that point he would like to remind him that he was perfectly right in supposing that a tariff, and even a high tariff, utterly failed to keep manufactured goods out of any country. At the present moment, in spite of the high tariff wall in the United States of America, they were importing quite as many manufactured goods as ourselves, and, therefore, according to the argument of his hon. friend, there must be as much unemployment caused by reason of their high tariff as by our free trade. There was another argument put forward by the hon. Member for North Worcestershire who thought that the workman ought to be made a contributor by having his sugar and tea taxed in order that a fund might be raised, or rather continued, to speak more accurately, to supply old-age pensions. He did not agree with his hon. friend's argument, for the removal of the tea and sugar duties was due to the workers, apart from any question of old age pensions. He joined issue with his hon. friend the Member for Preston on another point. His hon. friend had said that the Income Tax Committee, after sitting for a considerable period, had decided that no revenue was to be drawn from any particular form of graduated income-tax. He wished to point out that there was a most extraordinary omission in the Report of the Committee. Although in the first paragraph it promised to deal with the question of yield, it forgot all about that promise in the subsequent paragraphs. There was not a single word in the Report on the question of yield. The explanation was that when the Report was originally drafted paragraph 12 dealt with the question of yield. That paragraph did refer to the evidence given by Sir Henry Primrose, who gave his support to the view that only a few millions could be got out of the scheme, even if there were a high tax on high incomes. When the Committee struck out that paragraph they forgot to put anything in its place. He himself was glad that they struck it out, but he thought it was a pity that they did not put anything in its place. It was within the knowledge of all hon. Members that the sum of 900 millions gross had been brought under the survey of the Income Tax Commissioners, and after all deductions and allowances had been made he believed the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be justified, in estimating the yield of a graduated tax, in taking the taxable amount as £750,000,000. His right hon. friend had stated that the cost of providing old age pensions of 5s. a week to every aged person in the country over sixty-five years of age would be £26,000,000. When they compared these two sums the difficulty in regard to old-age pensions began to disappear. But the difficulty disappeared a little further when they considered the number of times £26,000,000 was contained in £750,000,000. He asked the House to remember that the £750,000,000 which he took was the most modest sum which the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be justified in estimating upon if he were making a graduated income-tax. The actual income of the income tax paying classes was far more than that. He thought the £750,000,000 might be divided into three parts in this way. Of that total £250,000,000 belonged to 800,000 income-taxpayers, £300,000,000 to 250,000 taxpayers, and £200,000,000 to 15,000 taxpayers. When they considered the £750,000,000 as divided in that way they had before them the very essence and the very root of the problem. They had here not merely the statistical facts of the distribution; they must remember that these figures represented millions of human creatures' work. They represented the under payment of millions and the over payment of thousands. The facts were of so tremendous a nature, they were such a reproach to them all, that unless they addressed themselves to the subject in this House, they would be always confronted with the questions of poverty, pauperism, and unemployment. Yet when they approached these questions from time to time they were dealt with on the Treasury Bench with a great deal of timidity. If the three classes were taxed in the way which he would suggest, they would find a solution of the difficulty of providing for old-age pensions. He would suppose that the first class of taxpayers was taxed at 2½ per cent., the second at 5 per cent., and the third at 10 per cent. The income-tax would yield £47,500,000, as compared with £31,000,000 at present. The difference between these two sums would be sufficient to put in operation a respectable scheme of old-age pensions. He had the support of one Chancellor of the Exchequer in proposing this method of taxation—the late Sir William Harcourt —who graduated the death duties. He ranged them from zero up to 8 per cent. He thought the work of Sir William Harcourt might be carried further, and that in connection with the income tax the scale might be continued up to at least 10 per cent. He alleged that the margin of error would not be greater than now obtained in regard to the death duties. That was to say, that when the Chancellor of the Exchequer presented his Budget he could not say, in estimating the amount of the death duties, whether twelve millionaires or one would die during the course of the year. But, in spite of that, the Chancellor of the Exchequer had no difficulty in making up his Budget, because he had always a certain margin. So he maintained that while this graduated income-tax might produce £47,500,000, there was good ground for maintaining that, allowing for a margin, it would certainly yield £42,000,000 or even £45,000,000. What would be the result? At present the state obtained from the income-tax, graduated up to £700 a year by a Tory Chancellor of the Exchequer, £31,000,000; and the modest scheme which he had suggested would be sufficient to put into operation what they all desired. If they put the economies which might be effected and a graduated income-tax together, the problem of old age pensions was solved. They knew that the efforts of the working classes of this country directed by the brains of the country had created such an amount of wealth that they could easily raise the sum required for old age pensions, and more if needed. If to make a practical beginning the pensions were limited to persons over seventy years of age it would only involve £9,000,000. The difficulty of establishing a scheme of old age pensions, he maintained, in conclusion, were not so great as was imagined; and he hoped that in some Budget, if not in the present, in some future year, they would reach the beginning of the end of the terrible condition of the aged poor.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) said there had been a great many eloquent speeches in favour of the Amendment. He was sure that all the Members of the House had made great professions upon the platform, had spoken with all the fire and force they could command, and had committed themselves deeply to the principle of old age pensions. Surely the time had gone past for mere talk and the time for action had come. He therefore hoped that the Labour Party and their sympathisers would carry this Amendment to a division, so that once and for all it might be shown who were really in favour of old age pensions and who were not. The arguments so eloquently addressed to the House on behalf of the Amendment appeared even to have touched the hard official heart of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and he had given a sympathetic answer. Hon. Members, however, who had been in the House for a number of years would remember that that official sympathy had been extended to the project for a good many years without anything being done. In the last Parliament he had gone against his own Party on this question. The main argument in favour of these pensions was that a man, unable longer to work, and having braved the battle of life and been honest, sober, and industrious, should in the closing days of his existence have some prospect of comfort. He should not have to submit either to the cold comfort of the workhouse or to the degradation of casual charity That undoubtedly was the conviction of all who had given thought or study to the problem. The argument against such pensions was the old and serious one of cost. Other countries had faced this problem; our Colonies had faced it; and we, the richest country in the world, were surely most able to face it and grapple with it. The true solution and the most practical solution of the question would be the settlement of the fiscal problem. It had been contended that old age pensions would discourage thrift. He thought that there should be a test of character before pensions were granted. How could habits of thrift be expected in labourers receiving only 13s. or 14s. a week? There were hundreds of such labourers in his own constituency, and they could not be expected to keep themselves and their wives and children on such small wages and have any margin left. The granting of pensions would bring a new hope for the closing days of the lives of the poor instead of the haunting dread of the workhouse which was a very real dread indeed. He therefore had the greatest pleasure in supporting the Amendment.

MR. STUART (Sunderland) said he had listened with very considerable interest to the hon. Member who had outlined a method by which he would obtain the money for the purpose of granting old age pensions. But the Chancellor of the Exchequer had indicated that, in apportioning the savings of the people or new capital, every person who desired some reform or other was apt to lay hold of the same factors, which were like Goldsmith's piece of furniture which was a chest of drawers by day and a bed by night. The most remarkable instance of double duty being performed by the same thing was afforded by the hon. and gallant Member for Central Sheffield. That day the hon. and gallant Gentleman wished to apportion for the purpose of old age pensions the income to be derived from a 1s. or a 2s. duty on manufactured articles imported into this country. But last year the hon. and gallant Gentleman made this same duty of 1s. or 2s. on imported manufactured articles fulfil a totally different function. Last year, when the the debate was on the unemployed, the hon. and gallant Gentleman pointed out that the effect of the 2s. duty on manufactured articles would keep them out of the country, thereby give employment to our own workmen, and that consequently unemployment would be done away with. The best thing was not to indicate with exactness the source from which this taxation was to be raised; and he thought he might indicate it without going beyond that canon—the general lines. It was that the wealth of the country and the wealthier classes ought to pay more. There had been a remarkable monotony about the debate. Only one hon. Gentleman had spoken against the reform which all the rest of them desired. He would hardly venture to cross swords with that hon. Gentleman from a political economy point of view, but there were three points in connection with that argument on which he desired to touch. The hon. Member had certainly spoken as if there would be a tendency for this £26,000,000 to be withdrawn in some way. He seemed to think that if it was given to the aged poor in the shape of pensions it would be withdrawn and not come back to others in the way of wages. He thought the hon. Member had omitted one of the most important aspects of the case. This £26,000,000, when it was given to the aged poor, was not given to them to put in their pockets or to lock up in a cupboard. It was given them to spend in procuring the necessaries of life, and it would thereby increase the trade of the country as well as employment. It was a very important thing, therefore, from that point of view, that the poor man should have larger funds at his disposal. The hon. Member had used a rather fantastic argument when he said that employers of labour would be inclined to dismiss the man who was a little under sixty-five in order to employ the man who was a little over sixty-five, and in that way by giving smaller wages fill their pockets with the money raised for old age pensions. As an employer of labour he said that was the most fantastic argument he had ever heard. Putting out of account the trade unions, who could very well deal with a question of that kind, did anyone think that an employer would employ a more aged man, still less that he would do so because he thought he could save money out of that man's pension? The thing was ridiculous. He was, as he had said, an employer of labour himself, and he had done the best he could in connection with old age pensions, but in the case of the private employer it was essential that it should be a permanent employment, and it was not an easy thing to do then. If they looked out on the great world of labour employments were not largely permanent, and he did not know whether it was a desirable thing, except that a man would be constantly employed, that he should bind himself to remain in one employment. The result was that the pension question could only be dealt with by the most high-minded and generous employer under the most favourable circumstances. It was therefore to the country they must appeal for the settlement of the matter. He had had considerable experience upon the question of old-age pensions; he believed that 5s. a week was too little, and they ought not to shut their eyes to that fact. They would be glad to get it, however; but it was too little for any man or woman to live upon in the declining years of their lives. He noticed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer smiled, and the right hon. Gentleman had pointed out that it was desirable to begin this matter in some partial manner. It was, however, a very difficult thing to begin old-age pensions in a partial manner. The only way in which he thought it could be done was either by reducing the amount to an undesirable figure or by raising the age at which old-age pensions should begin. He did not know of any other possible means, and he believed that they should begin by adopting these means if they could not do otherwise, but let them not try to begin by discriminating between the rich and the poor; let them not begin by bringing in any of those backstairs influences which frequently prevailed when people had to urge their own cases; let them not create a distinction between richness and poorness. Moreover he did not like to draw the line at character, so that a man should be deprived of a benefit as the result of some fault committed earlier in life. He did not like the idea of a character line of demarcation or of a poverty line of demarcation. They ought, he thought, to begin by giving the compensation to women as well as to men. It seemed to him that the hon. Member when he spoke of poverty had been suffering a great deal from what Plato called "The Eikon of Decay," and had been wandering among the shadows instead of the realities of life. The thing which made one thrifty was poverty, and the thing that caused one not to be thrifty was the uselessness of thrift, and if a man could add a little to the results of his own thrift by a pension then the latter was the greatest inducement to him to save. In the case of the highest class of society, what did they do? They all knew that what they tried to do was to safeguard the position of their sons and daughters in their old age. They did this by means of marriage settlements and in other ways. Did that do them any harm? Not a bit. It did them good, while the life of the working classes was very largely overshadowed and darkened by the prospects of their old age. There were two periods at which life could be brightened by the State, namely, the beginning and the end. They had done a great deal for the child but hardly anything for the old men and women, except to open the workhouse doors as a home for the failures in life. He knew that a great deal had been done, especially since the Report of the Royal Commission some fifteen years ago, in the way of discrimination in the administration of the Poor Law, but he entirely agreed that it was absolutely essential that the old-age pension system should be entirely divorced from the Poor Law. We could not, however, have an old-age pension system without having something in the nature of an infirmary or of a cottage hospital to which our old people could go and where some nurse could help them. That was a necessity of old-age pensions and he had found it to be so. The nation could carry it out through some form of infirmary, but when it was carried out it ought not to be in any way associated with the stigma of charity. This subject had animated him for many long years, and if upon it he felt so strongly, what must hon. Gentlemen on the Labour Benches feel whose fathers and mothers had had to undergo the struggles which he had depicted. Those struggles were outside his life and the life of others, but this question did strike most of the people in a tender place, and, representing as he did a very large constituency, he did not think that during the last two or three years there had been any question which raised such deep-seated interest and expectation among the working people as that of old-age pensions. It was not only a question which touched them deeply, but it touched their morality, and their whole self-respect, and if properly dealt with it would remove that horrible curtain which hung between them and their old age with the prospect of the workhouse in the future. It was difficult for some to realise the horror of their position, and that horror ought to be removed. One good result of this debate would be to bring home to His Majesty's Government, what he believed they recognised, that what was in the mind of this House of Commons, whether it was on one side of the House or the other, was the social well-being of the people, and that no fight with the House of Lords and no general question of whatever magnitude it might be, could be subtituted for the advance which they hoped for and expected in the social condition of the people. They wanted to fight the Lords and were willing to do so, but they were determined, and he believed the Government itself was determined, that before this House of Commons did that which all Houses of Commons did, namely, come to an end, something should be done for the poor—something which would make the rich more secure and which would secure the well-being of the poor in their old age.

*MR. STEADMAN (Finsbury, Central) said it was some years since he had the privilege of addressing the House, and he rose not in any carping or criticising spirit to support the Amendment. He would say at the outset that he had no sympathy with the speech delivered by the hon. and gallant Member for Sheffield. In fact he had listened with amazement to the new-born zeal of some of their friends on the Tory Benches that evening. Let him take the House a few years back. The hon. and gallant Member's Party came into office in 1895, when the national expenditure was only ninety-two millions, and when they had a surplus at their disposal of three or four millions. In the election of 1895 old-age pensions played a more important part in London than anything else in capturing the vote of the working man. The Unionist Party had ample opportunity to give old-age pensions during the ten years they were in office, but they adopted an Imperialistic policy, and an Imperialistic policy could only be adopted by a nation by neglecting the social welfare of the people. The Unionist Government increased the expenditure by some £50,000,000. What, however, upset him as an industrial worker, was the speech of the junior Member for Preston, who only exposed his absolute ignorance of the conditions of the industrial classes of this country by the lecture with which he had favoured the House upon thrift. It was all very well to talk of the young man saving 6d. a week, but he would ask the hon. Member what he would do in his (Mr. Steadman's) case. He was apprenticed at the age of fifteen and earned 6s. a week. At the age of twenty he was earning 13s. How could he, the chief breadwinner for his brothers and sisters, afford to put away 6d. a week. He, however, adopted the policy of the hon. Member. He joined his trade union, because it was going to protect his labour, and his wife and little children when he married if he was thrown out of work. He joined the best friendly society in the civilised world—the Hearts of Oak. He got married. The question he wished to ask was, out of his wages as a mechanic, after paying his rent—and he believed in living in as decent a place as his wages would permit and in clothing and feeding his children as well as he could—and paying his way, what had he to put by for old age pensions? He had not even then what he considered sufficient for his position as a wage-earner. Nothing had done so much to solve this problem as the trade organisations. They did not ask the philanthropists and capitalists for money, they found it out of their own pockets, and out of the hardly earned shillings and pounds they had built up enormous funds for this object. The organisation of which the hon. Member who moved this Motion was a member had the finest old-age pension scheme in the country. The pension commenced with a minimum of 4s. a week and rose to a maximum of 10s., which meant a tax upon the members of 6½d. a week. That was more than they should be called upon to pay. He believed in the gospel that the strong should help the weak. He did not ask for selfish legislation, but for legislation to help those who could not help themselves. In this noble city, with all its wealth, there were to-day something like 500,000 adult workers whose average earnings did not exceed 15s. a week. It was impossible for those people to pay into a trade union or even to secure sufficient nourishment for their families, let alone provide for their old age. It was, it was true, all a question of cost, but he contended that until a scheme was actually in operation it was impossible to forecast the cost. It did not follow that because they were entitled all people over the age of sixty would apply for a pension, and therefore it would be impossible even for the hon. Member for Paddington to calculate what the cost would be. He had been a Poor Law guardian, and was prepared, out of his experience, to say that we had the money now but were using it in the wrong way; that the people were being pauperised, and the question was not being solved. His experience as a Poor Law guardian was that they summoned a man before the Board to compel him to support his aged parents who were on the rates. The man might be a carman, and his wage anything from 18s. to 24s. a week. He would come before the Board with his wife and three or four children, as the case might be, to demonstrate his own position, and he (Mr. Steadman) would say to hon. Members of this House as he had said to his fellow members on the Board of Guardians, before they asked that man to contribute a single shilling to the support of his parents they should put themselves in his place and see what they could do with 24s. a week. There were something like 500,000 men and women inmates of our unions, who cost 4s. 6d. or 5s. 6d. a week, according to the generosity of the guardians. That was the total cost per head, but the administration of the Poor Law cost from 10s. to 15s. a head. He contended that half the money expended under the Poor Law could be saved if the country possessed a scheme of old-age pensions. He would remind the House that all the social evils of to-day were not caused by drink. He quite admitted the evil caused by drink, but it did not cause the whole. In his parish every penny given in poor relief came out of the rates of the parish, and whenever they found a deserving case where a person was in receipt of a few shillings a week, they took the only course, the only Christian course, open to them, and gave that person a few shillings more to keep him or her out of the workhouse. The amount they gave amounted approximately to a 4d. rate; this had to come from local rates and meant—if it meant anything at all—that the poor had to keep the poor. He maintained that if we had a scheme of old-age pensions, there were good, honest men in this country who would always find a shelter for their parents, so long as the State stepped in and gave them a few shillings a week for a loaf of bread and a little butter. When out-door relief was given the recipient was robbed of his birthright. Charity sapped the manhood and womanhood of the people of this country. He maintained that men and women who had lived their lives up to a certain time of life without offending against the laws of God or man should have a better end to which to look forward than the workhouse. In giving his vote he was going to be consistent. He did not stand up, either in this House or out of it, for the idler and the loafer—for the men who would not work when work could be obtained. So far as the able-bodied paupers were concerned he would say they should be put upon the land, and if they would not work when they were able, let them starve. He believed the country should find employment if they could, and he hoped something practical at last would be done towards solving this, one of the greatest social problems of life.

*MR. EVERETT (Suffolk, Woodbridge) said this was a question in which he had taken great interest for many years. He was first led to think about it by attending the lectures of the late Canon Blackley, and he came to the conclusion that the only certain way of getting old-age pensions was by a universal scheme of pensions out of the taxes for those who lived long enough to partake of them. That was the scheme elaborated afterwards by Mr. Charles Booth. He had the pleasure of saying what he could in the House during the Parliament of 1892, in defence and advocacy of universal old-age State-paid pensions. At that time, he was sorry to say, the great friendly societies were not favourable to State pensions, but he was delighted to have lived to see all the great friendly societies and trade unions heartily unanimous in desiring that there should be universal old-age pensions from the State. And now they had the Minister of the Crown and a unanimous Parliament approving. It appeared to him that they need not be frightened about the cost of this matter; it was really a system of co-operative insurance. Everybody who ate and drank contributed to taxation; there was no escape from it; so that they had a fund to which they were compelled to pay all their lives; and what was more reasonable than that, out of that fund, those who lived to a certain age should by able to draw old-age pensions? If it was recognised to be a good thing for an individual to insure, why should it not be a good thing for all? Why should not the whole nation combine and insure its members out of the fund which all helped to provide? We co-operated for our defence by the establishment of the Army and Navy; we co-operated for our police and our Post Office, and, as the House were reminded just now, we had taken the children of the nation in hand, and we were co-operating to provide them in food as well as schooling, if necessary. What was more suitable than that we should extend this co-operation to the other end of life, and see that our old men and old women were comforted by the thought that out of the common fund to which they had been paying all their lives they were sure to receive a pension? He felt that they were in sight now of the dawning of a day of great joy. Many in his own constituency would be bitterly disappointed if this Parliament came to an end without giving old-age pensions. They must, of course, be guided by circumstances, but the great thing was to begin somewhere. He would rather they began with 1s. a week and a sixty-five years of age basis, than that nothing should be done. Let them even begin at seventy years of age, or seventy-five, if there was not money enough to begin younger, only let the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government let the people know that they did mean that old-age pensions should be begun. He had full confidence in the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and in the honesty of the declarations they had made. Let them not by voting for the Amendment show any distrust, but give with all their hearts support to the Government which had promised to begin straightway this great social reform. He rejoiced to have lived to see this day.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said that that night's discussion betokened a brighter era, he thought, for the working classes of this country. The interest taken in the debate indicated that not only would old-age pensions become a fact, but that many other matters affecting the well-being of the people would be dealt with. As usual they had heard the one speech against old-age pensions. It was made by the junior Member for Preston. But the speech of the hon. Member indicated to him that they were going on the right lines. It appeared to them that the junior Member for Preston was utterly retrograde on questions of this description.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: He is Secretary of the Cobden Club. ["No, no."]

MR. SHACKLETON thought the hon. and gallant Gentleman was in error as to that. Moreover, the Cobden Club did not govern them; but to-morrow they might have an opportunity of discussing that question on the official Amendment of the Opposition. They had heard the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and they all recognised that the right hon. Gentleman was speaking not only for himself, but on behalf of the Government, and as those who acted with him in this matter desired to be quite fair and frank, he desired to say that they had raised the question as a matter of business, and not merely to be debated. The speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer was favourable. It was distinctly hopeful, though clothed in the usual diplomatic language, and the right hon. Gentleman had dealt with the subject with that power of speech which he had acquired as a lawyer. The Labour Members, however, regarded it as an indication of action on the part of the Government when the opportunity came, and they were inclined to think that the opportunity to make a beginning would come this year. The opportunity was the Budget, and in fairness to the right hon. Gentleman they must recognise that it would be his first Budget, his last Budget having been based on the decisions of the late Government. He and those around him would support the right hon. Gentleman in his efforts, and would oppose any relief of taxation until the question was dealt with. They held that it was a mockery to take off taxation, and at the same time leave the old people with promises and hopes unfulfilled. There were difficulties to be encountered, but, studying the question as they had for many years, they knew the difficulties were not so great as some people imagined. Moreover, it was the duty of the Chancellor of the Exchequer to meet difficulties. Chancellors of the Exchequer had made their names in the country by facing the situation and facing it successfully. They hoped, therefore, that the right hon. Gentleman's name would be carried down as that of the man who brought forward the old-age pension Budget. The question was urgent, but as they felt sure that it was only postponed until Budget day, they did not intend to press the Amendment. ["Oh."] It was all very well for the Opposition to cry "Oh." They should have made a beginning during the fifteen years in which they had the opportunity. There was one pleasant feature about the subject, and that was that the House of Commons could come to a decision, if this was a Budget question, without the other House interfering. If the House would take the opportunity this year of starting with the subject they would give the country an object lesson in the difference between the power of democracy and the power of birth—the difference between the House of Commons, when it set to work, and the other place at the end of the corridor. He earnestly appealed to the Government to rise to the occasion, and to do so this year.

*THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I rise to say on behalf of the Government that they share in the aspirations of the working classes for a scheme of old-age pensions and intend to do their best to achieve it. The means and the opportunities must necessarily be left to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with whose speech no one has a reasonable right to be disappointed, considering that the right hon. Gentleman made that speech a month or six weeks before the Estimates can be finally prepared and the Budget revealed. I think the House is indebted to the late Secretary to the Treasury for his statement that he could not see his way on the present occasion to vote against the Government because the Budget was not revealed and this was not the time when a Chancellor of the Exchequer should be pinned down to any pledge that he might not be in a position to carry out. It will be the first Budget of my right hon. friend, and until it is known what money is required for the Army and Navy and the Civil Service, it would not be fair or right to ask him how much of his problematical surplus he intends to devote to the beginning of an old age pension scheme. But whatever course the Government adopt in carrying out their policy, they certainly will not follow the *ignis fatuus* suggested by the hon. and gallant Member for Sheffield, and we shall not attempt to solve the old age pensions problem by a 10 per cent. tax on manufactured goods coming into this country or a 5 per cent. tax on partly manufactured goods. Such a course might secure a very small pension for a diminishing number of people, but there are millions of people who will hesitate to adopt a five-shillings per week old-age pension at sixty-five or seventy years of age at the cost of a long-drawn-out life of dearer food and diminishing employment such as is involved in the proposals of the hon. and gallant Member.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I said nothing about food.

*MR. JOHN BURNS: The hon. and gallant Member has missed the point; it is not what he has said, but what is behind his suggestion that is in question. I cannot conceive a tax on manufactured goods which does not inferentially make for dearer food. A change has come over the advocates of old-age pensions in the last three or four years, the all-or-none attitude adopted by the advocates of a compulsory universal scheme has gone entirely and the all-at-once attitude, I am pleased to see, has been abandoned in favour of an instalment process of old-age pensions in proportion to means and opportunities. It would be wrong for the Chancellor of the Exchequer or myself or any member of the Government to raise false hopes by saying that the Government intend, or are able to provide, old-age pensions; but the Government want to do it, and I believe they will do it so far as time, means, and opportunity allow. On behalf of the Government and with the consent of the Chancellor of the Exchequer I have risen to say that. But we have to remember that the surplus is not going to be so large as some people think, and the demands that are being made are great. These we are trying to some extent to meet in the way indicated in the King's Speech, by means of small holdings, rural housing, and other matters. There is also the increasing cost of Government Departments, I am glad to say, owing to higher wages to those who deserve it, and better conditions all round. Consistently with demands that have to be met the Government will do their best. There is one thing necessary to the proper consideration of this matter before any pension scheme is produced. We all regret the lamentable lack of precise and up-to-date information on all branches of the subject in the statistical form which the House is entitled to have. There are in this country 2,200,000 persons over sixty-five years of age, of whom 300,000 are paupers in our workhouses and infirmaries, who, partly by the rates and partly by the taxes, are maintained in their present condition. It does seem to me that it is essential for the proper financial consideration of this problem that we should know on reliable figures got through the great Departments to what extent the cost of the 300,000 paupers over sixty-five years of age could be deducted from the total cost of an absolutely universal pension scheme, and I propose to get Returns as quickly as possible. I do not propose that a Committee should be appointed, but that this work should be done through the cooperation of the different Departments which can furnish the information. There is also another aspect of the pension and superannuation problem with which I propose to deal. Besides the 300,000 paupers over sixty-five years of age, the cost of whom we cannot tell, there are 200,000 men—it is a larger figure than some thought—who draw pensions or superannuation allowances from the Army, the Navy, and the Civil Service, or from the local authorities. It is essential that we should know the extent to which, if any, the £9,500,000 paid for pensions or superannuations to these 200,000 people could be deducted from the total cost of an inclusive scheme. What is more, the House ought to know, and we must make some attempt to secure figures, although it is very difficult to get them, the extent trade unions and friendly societies have pensioned and superannuated members on their lists. The number is very problematical. I do not think it is over 30,000. We ought to have all the figures on these matters so as to have a just appreciation of this particular problem. I should say in passing that if every trade organisation contributed towards the solution of the problem as does the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, with which I am connected, it would not be so difficult to handle. That society pensions 5,300 of its members with an average pension of about 9s. per week at a cost of £120,000. That is what is done by one society alone, and I propose to gather the statistics of the various classes of people who are receiving payments in this way, and to present them to the House as soon as possible. We ought to try to do something else. We ought to ascertain where all the millions of money go to that the generous and charitable rich subscribe through benevolent and philanthropic societies for the aged and impecunious sick. I shall do my best to get these statistics, and then when this question is advanced another stage the House will be in a better position to deal with it. I appeal to the trade unions and friendly societies to assist the Government in obtaining information that will show whether the industrial age of the working classes is longer or shorter than it was thirty or forty years ago. On that matter we want reliable figures and information, not in any way to bias the Government in its action, but merely in order that in the consideration of this subject accurate knowledge may be brought to bear upon it. In the case of one society which I have in my mind the average age at death of the workmen associated with it has risen in the last fifty years from forty to forty-four years to fifty to fifty-four years. The House has a right to have all this information. I have risen to repeat the pledge which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has given on behalf of the Government, and to say that I shall do my best to co-operate with the Home Office and the Board of Trade, with the assistance of the trade unions and the friendly societies, to obtain accurate information in order that we may come to close grips with this question, so that when we have the opportunity we shall be able to act on the instalment process. If we begin, the House ought not to stand on the order of its beginning, but to begin as soon as it is possible, and I can assure the House the Government so intends.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): I regret to say that I have heard less of the debate than I should have liked to hear. I have not merely a direct personal interest in this question such as every Member possesses, but I have an inherited interest in it, because my right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham with his active mind and keen interest in all social questions, was one of the first politicians, at all events in the front rank, to press this question upon the attention of the country. I recognise in this discussion an advance on the question. When the question was first raised there was a large section in this House and there were many people in the country who adopted the "all or none" attitude—an attitude which said that. they should not do a little at a time but the whole thing at once. I recognise and welcome the more reasonable attitude which has prevailed in the discussion to-night. I make only one qualification in regard to it. I would be glad to see a beginning made even if we do not reach finality at once; but let us proceed on lines which really contemplate the whole magnitude of the problem. Let us not take a step that holds out hopes only to disappoint them, which involves us in expenditure which we do not see our way meet. In other words—[AN HON. MEMBER on the MINISTERIAL Benches: Do not do anything.]—do not let us draw a Bill leaving somebody else to pay it, but provide at once, or in proportion as the demands come in, for the expenditure which we will have to meet. The right hon. Gentleman has promised to do his best to collect information as to what are, I admit, material factors in the problem as to the cost of maintaining the aged and infirm poor in workhouses and infirmaries. By all means let us know that; but do not let us suppose that by any scheme we can do away with the whole of the present expenditure of maintaining the aged and infirm poor in workhouses and infirmaries. In speaking on this subject I have always made a distinction which I was glad to hear the hon. Member for Finsbury make a few minutes ago. I have always said that for my part I would not be a party to treating the wastrel and the idler, as well as the deserving poor, at the expense in part of the deserving poor. But when you eliminate the wastrel and the idler, there remain a great number of poor people who cannot be provided for by any scheme of old-age pensions which can be contemplated. In the first place, there are the infirm poor who require nursing of a kind which they cannot have in their own homes, and whose children, if they have any, cannot afford the time and means to give them that nursing in their own home. Such nursing, therefore, can only be given them in some public institution. That expenditure would remain. Then those who already receive pensions from public sources in some form or another would be excluded from any scheme which it would be wise to contemplate. The right hon. Gentleman went on to say that he proposed to ascertain to what extent the aged poor were being supported out of Trade Union or Friendly Society Funds. I agree that it is desirable, that it is necessary, to get that information, but I do not understand for what purpose it is wanted. Is it to exclude them from any scheme for old-age pensions? Clearly not. It would be taking the worst possible course of action if it were said that those who had made provision for themselves for old age should be excluded from the benefits given to others. The object should be not to discourage, but to encourage personal thrift on the part of working men, and to make some provision for themselves in old age through their trade unions or benefit societies. Three things have hitherto prevented progress in this matter. First of all, the "all or none" attitude of a section of public opinion that was passing away. Second, the jealousy of the great national friendly societies lest any Government scheme should interfere with their operations, not only in regard to old-age pensions, but in regard to their work for the promotion of thrift. That also is passing away. I hope that these societies are beginning to realise that if the Government are going to assist them in their work, it is not thwarting them in their efforts, but assisting them in the best possible way. A Government scheme would help them to maintain the great burden of their financial stabilty in relation to their own Members. The third obstacle is that which was dwelt upon by the President of the Local Government

Board, viz., the difficulty of finding the means for this scheme. The President of the Local Government Board said that it was the intention of the Government to deal with this subject as soon as time, means, and opportunity were favourable. There is no time like the present. There is no opportunity more opportune in a matter of this kind than the present. The right hon. Gentleman points to the King's Speech; he speaks with the Chancellor of the Exchequer beside him, and with a sense of responsibility he declines to hold out hopes that cannot be fulfilled at an early date. He points to the fact that the House from every quarter is constantly urging on the Chancellor of the Exchequer new expenditure, and that if the measures referred to in the King's Speech are to be carried out, new expenditure must be incurred. He looks forward to a general increase in Government expenditure, partly owing to the higher wages being paid to, and better conditions being provided for, those in the Government employment. All these claims—all these good claims—press upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer and do battle with old-age pensions for any surplus which is available. The President of the Local Government Board said that to give aged persons each 5s. a week—and I contend that nothing less than 5s. is worth while giving—would take about £26,000,000 or £28,000,000, which is something like the interest upon our National Debt. I ventured to tell the Chancellor of the Exchequer last year that he had framed his estimates of income too low, but never in my wildest dreams have I ventured to think that he would have a surplus of £26,000,000 or £28,000,000. At the bottom of this, as of every other question, is the consideration of ways and means, and he who wills the end must will the ways and means. The movements for small holdings, for the better housing of the working classes, and for the better conditions of Government employment involve that those who urge them must be ready to raise the means if they intend to carry out the aspirations which they express. How do working men want old-age pensions? Do they want them as a dole and a charity, or do they want them as something which they have earned, to which they contribute a proportion of the provision, and which they may take without any loss of self-respect or any feeling that they are made paupers and dependants. This question was put by the hon. Member for Dudley who sits on the opposite side of the House, to his constituents the other day. He said he wished to be informed about it, and as I should expect of every working man, they said they expected it as a right to themselves, something which was due to them as citizens who had done their duty, and not as a dole to a pauper. Then said the hon. Member—

> "If you wish it in that way you must do something to provide the sum of money which is necessary. Old-age pensions require large sums of money, but all of you have power to add your quota by increased payment for some articles of common consumption."

[MINISTERIAL laughter.] Before hon. Gentlemen laugh further I had better remind them that the hon. Member for Dudley sits on their side of the House. The hon. Member said—

> "For instance you might pay a penny more upon tea which would produce a large revenue—"

I do not know whether the hon. Member had in his mind the revenue that tea produces—

> "or (he said) you might put something on sugar, and if you mean to have the pension as a right and as self-respecting men that is how you must have it."

I do not say that the whole of the money for these purposes should be raised by additional taxation on articles of food, whether the articles be taxed or untaxed, but I do say, speaking with the responsibility of one who has been Chancellor of the Exchequer, that you cannot raise the big sums required for all these purposes—pensions, housing of the working classes, and restoration of the people to the land—unless you extend your basis of taxation. "Time, opportunity, and means," as the President of the Local Government Board said, are necessary, and the greatest of these is means, and if the means are there we can find the time and opportunity. At the bottom of this question is money, and our present resources do not enable us to find it. I rejoice to think that this question of old-age pensions is passing into a saner atmosphere, and that its necessity is being recognised in quarters where it was not recognised before. It is certainly becoming increasingly urgent. Probably the expectation of life of the working classes is greater now than ever before—greater than may be supposed from the average age at the time of death of members of trade unions. But I am terribly afraid that the industrial age limit is rather receding than increasing. If that is so, the problem of provision for old age of those who have worked for as long as they can becomes, for this reason alone, even if there were no other reasons, increasingly urgent. I do not need to press that upon the Government. I do not underrate the difficulty of finding this great fund, but I say if the four parties in the country are really agreed in the view which the right hon. Gentleman opposite takes and the view I take of the urgency of this problem and the importance of providing for these people, then nothing stands between us in doing it but the question of means. For my part I am ready, at any time, to contribute to the raising of the means for this purpose by such an extension of our system of taxation as, while requiring contributions from the working men for the benefits they are to receive (which I think it should require) will also require a contribution from that portion of the community which is better off, for the relief of the poor in their old age.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said the interesting speech of the right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down seemed to have for its central point the broadening of the basis of taxation in order to provide old-age pensions. Much as they desired old-age pensions, they would strenuously resist any attempt to use them as a bait to drag the working classes into the protectionist net. The Labour Party were inclined to believe that the Chancellor of the Exchequer's speech meant that the Government intended this year to make a beginning with old-age pensions, and it was under that impression that their decision was announced a few minutes ago. But the speech of the President of the Local Government Board had not maintained that impression. It had, on the contrary, created the impression that the question was only to be dealt with after the reforms of the Army, the Navy, and other matters, which had prior claims, had been disposed of.

MR. JOHN BURNS: No, no.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said the speech of the right hon. Gentleman left that impression. The President of the Local Government Board had said that the all-at-once attitude had now been abandoned. It had not been abandoned by any section entitled to speak in the name of the working classes on this question. They were to have a Return, with a roving commission to discover what trade unions, friendly societies, and other bodies were doing for old-age pensions; but what had this to do with the question? What object was to be gained by it? Twelve months ago this House passed a unanimous resolution in favour of old-age pensions. About twelve months ago the Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the Government would accept the Motion, and now they were told that not a single step had been taken to make a beginning. There had been four Commissions and several Select and special Committees which had already considered the facts and figures, and all that was required was to bring them up-to-date. But surely that could be done easily, and without requiring a long inquiry. He had been authorised to state on behalf of the Labour Members that they had come to the decision earlier in the evening not to press the Amendment to a division, but, if that decision had not been come to before the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board, they would have divided upon the question. They would now, however, postpone it until the Budget had been introduced, and they would then expect a definite beginning to be made. They asked the Government to treat this question not as one to be dealt with only when the Chancellor of Exchequer found it convenient. If it was a question of Army or Navy reform, he presumed that the Cabinet would decide upon its policy and instruct the Chancellor of the Exchequer to find ways and means. What they asked was that the Government, having determined that this question should be dealt with, should say to the Chancellor of the Exchequer that the ways and means must be found. On the Budget then the question would be raised at length, and, after the strength of feeling shown on all sides that night, the Government would be certainly guilty of a dereliction of duty if it was not then able to give them a definite and specific undertaking on the question.

Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 61 ; Noes, 213. (Division List No. 1.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Balcarres, Lord
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barnard, E. B.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Black, Arthur W.
Bottomley, Horatio
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chamberlain, RtHn. J. A. (Worc.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Glover, Thomas
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Helmsley, Viscount
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Jowett, F. W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nield, Herbert
O'Grady, J.
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Snowdon, P.
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thorne, William
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Watt, H. Anderson
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. T. L. Corbett and Captain Craig.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'wr' Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, RtHn. Sir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cleland, J. W.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, C H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry

Fuller, John Michael F.
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W.Bateman(Somerset,N
Horniman, Emslie John
Horridge, Thomas Gardner
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Laidlaw, Robert
Lambert, George
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Lever, W.H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Arthur, William
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson, CharlesN.(Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
Paul, Herbert
Philipps, Col.Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Price, C. E.(Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rees, J. D.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, SirG.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Seely, Major J. B.
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thompson, J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward,W.Dudley(Southampton
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Main Question again proposed.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

———

ADJOURNMENT—(THE WOMAN SUFFRAGISTS.)

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch Hoxton) said he wished to ask the Home Secretary why he had thought it necessary to adopt the measures which were in force outside the House at the present moment. Any Member who had been in the precincts of the House within the last hour or two, must have seen a large number of mounted police, and innumerable policemen on foot; indeed the House of Commons had more the appearance of an armed place than that of a deliberative assembly. They were aware that a rather unfortunate incident had occurred this afternoon in connection with the attempts made by women of the country to secure the right to take an active part in the affairs of the nation. Women had rights as well as men. It was for the Home Secretary to say why he had made arrangements which exposed Members of that House to the imputation of cowardice, and of being frightened of women. The treatment accorded to the ladies near the Palace of Westminster would only add fresh troubles to those already surrounding the woman suffrage question. He believed that the women of this country had rights as well as men, and the Government could perfectly well deal with these troubles by promising some effective measure this session. Some of our best women were called upon to discharge onerous and difficult tasks on various public bodies, and there was mention in the King's Speech of an intention to allow women to take some further part in the management of the affairs of local bodies, as if that was the proper satisfaction of the demand of women to have the suffrage in a larger sense. He hoped the Home Secretary would be able to give some reason why he had caused the Palace of Westminster to resemble more a fortress than a place for the Government of the country. It came very singularly from the Government that they should think it necessary to take these steps, when at that moment, if they went into any corner of London, they would find the supporters of the Government were endeavouring to get the suffrage of women for the County Council election by promising the ratepayers if they voted for Radicals that the County Council would appoint inspectors at the ratepayers' expense to teach mothers the art of nursing. If that was the spirit in which the Government and the majority of the House approached the question of woman suffrage, then he could say that women were entitled to make their protest. He hoped they would receive the assurance that this kind of action would not be repeated, as there was no sort of reason to fear any trouble from the woman suffragists, if tact and discretion were observed by men.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds) said that as far as he was concerned he had very little knowledge of what occurred outside.

MR. CLAUDE HAY: Then you ought to have.

*MR. GLADSTONE said he had been called from his room to answer the hon. Member, and he could only say that there had been a general instruction to the police, for the convenience of Members of the House, to secure for them a free and uninterrupted passage to and from the House. The police had done their duty, and no doubt would continue to do it.

MR. KEIR HARDIE said he had not intended to raise this question, but as it had been mentioned, he would only state that he had been informed, since the incident referred to, that the police had shown unnecessary violence. That was his information from persons who were eye-witnesses. He hoped the Home Office, in giving the instructions that might be necessary to protect the House, would also see that no unnecessary violence was used by the police in carrying out their duty.

*MR. GLADSTONE said that, as hon. Members knew, the police were not expected to show any unnecessary violence, and if it were shown that there had been exercise of unnecessary violence, certainly notice would be taken of it, but he had no reason to think that it could be shown.

Question put, and agreed to.

Adjourned accordingly at twelve minutes after Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 14th February, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the certificates from the Examiners that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Administrative County of London and District Electric Power; Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railways (Additional Capital, etc.); Annfield Plain and District Gas; Armagh Urban District Council; Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks; Basingstoke Gas; Birkenhead Corporation Water; Birmingham Corporation; Birmingham Corporation Water; Borax Consolidated; Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway; Brighouse Corporation; Bristol Corporation; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water; Brockenhurst Gas; Bude Gas; Burnham (Somerset) Pier; Cardiff Railway; Central London Railway; Channel Tunnel Railway; City of London (Union of Parishes); Colne Valley Water; Coventry Corporation Water; Devonport Corporation; Electric Supply Corporation; Falmouth Gas; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways; Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions); Grays and Tilbury Gas; Great Central Railway; Great Northern and City Railway; Great Western, London and Northern Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies; Great Yarmouth Port and Haven; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas; Harrison's Patent; Heywood and Middleton Water Board; Hull and Barnsley Railway; Humber Conservancy; Kendal Corporation; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation); Keswick Urban District Council (Water); King Edward's Hospital Fund for London; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation; Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway; Leeds Corporation; Leicestershire and Warwickshire Electric Power; Llandrindod Wells Gas; London County Council (Electric Supply); London County Council (General Powers); London and District Electric Power; London Electric Supply; London and North-Western Railway; London and North-Western Railway (Superannuation Fund); London Port and Docks; London United Tramways; Lower Thames Tunnel Railways; Maidstone Gas; Manchester Corporation Tramways; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal); Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers; Medway Lower Navigation; Mersey Docks and Harbour Board; Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund); Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, &c.); Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers); Middlesbrough Corporation; Midland Railway; Midland Railway (West Riding lines) Abandonment; Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas; Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty; Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation; Newquay and District Water; North British Railway (Substituted Bill); North-East London Railway; North-Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways; North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply; North Staffordshire Railway; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation; Oxford and District Tramways; Penrith Urban District Council; Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment); Pontypridd Urban District Council; Port Talbot Railway and Docks; Portishead District Water; Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply; Royal Insurance Company; St. Neot's Urban District Council; Selsey Water and Gas; Shanklin Gas; Sheffield Corporation; Society of Apothecaries of London; South Lincolnshire Water; South Wales Mineral Railway; Southend Corporation; Southend Water; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board; Staveley Coal and Iron Company; Sunderland Corporation; Sutton Coldfield Rectory; Swansea Harbour; Taff Vale Railway; Tees Conservancy; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation); Tyne Improvement; Tynemouth Corporation (Water); United Methodist Church; Watford and Edgware Railway; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board; West Riding Tramways; West Yorkshire Tramways; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier; Wisbech Water; Worthing Gas; York (Micklegate Strays).

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

Also the certificates that the Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have not been complied with:—Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers); Barry Railway; Boston Spa Gas; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways; Rawtenstall Corporation; South-Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways; York and District Tramways.

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRANSVAAL.

Correspondence relating to legislation affecting Asiatics in the Transvaal.

NAVY (ESTIMATES, 1907-1908).

Estimates, with explanation of differences; Statement of First Lord of the Admiralty explanatory of the Navy Estimates.

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN.

Account of the sums received and paid in respect of the wages and effects of deceased seamen in the year ended 31st March 1906.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

GRENADA.

Rules for the Government of the Colonial Prisons.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOP (DANGEROUS AND UNHEALTHY INDUSTRIES).

Regulations, dated 21st January 1907, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the manufacture of paints and colours.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF WOOLWICH).

Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough.

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND).

Account of receipts and payments for each financial year from 1st April 1899 to 31st March 1906.

RAMSGATE HARBOUR.

Statement of the receipts and payments made by the Board of Trade for the year ended 31st March 1906, together with an account of the receipt and issue of stores.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

ILLEGAL TRAWLING IN THE MORAY FIRTH.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH, who had given notice to ask the Representative of the Scottish Office whether it is the case that certain persons recently convicted in the Sheriff Court at Elgin for illegal trawling in the Moray Firth, and imprisoned in default of payment of fines, have been released without the payment of the fines; and, if so, whether he can, without detriment to the public interest, give any explanation of the reasons which have led to their release, said: My Lords, since I put this Question on the Paper I have had a courteous communication from the noble Lord who represents the Foreign Office, asking that it may be postponed for a few days. That, of course, is a request which any one of your Lordships would comply with, and I very willingly and gladly do so. I propose to put it down for Monday next. I may say that I am in a state of ignorance on the subject, and that if I could be told that the persons to whom I have referred had not been released I should not raise the question at all.

The LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of Ripon): My Lords, I am very much obliged to my noble friend for consenting not to put his Question to-day, and I should be still further indebted to him if he would postpone it until Thursday. It is important that the question should have the attention of the noble and learned Lord on the Woolsack, and I think Thursday would be the most convenient day for him.

Lord BALFOUR of BURLEIGH: I will put the Question down for Thursday.

I do not know if it is possible for the noble Marquess to state whether or not these persons have been released?

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I am afraid I cannot tell you.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes before Five o'clock till To morrow, half-past Ten o'clock.

———

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 14*th February*, 1907.

——

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

———

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

——

PRIVATE BILLS [LORDS].

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in respect of the Bills comprised in the List reported by the Chairman of Ways and Means as intended to originate in the House of Lords, they have certified that the Standing Orders have been complied with in the following cases, viz.:—

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks; Birkenhead Corporation Water; Birmingham Corporation; Birmingham Corporation Water; Borax Consolidated; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water; Burnham (Somerset) Pier; City of London (Union of Parishes); Colne Valley Water; Coventry Corporation Water; Devonport Corporation; Electric Supply Corporation; Folkestone, Sandgate and Hythe Tramways; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas; Harrison's Patent; Heywood and Middleton Water Board; Humber Conservancy; Kendal Corporation; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation); King Edward's Hospital Fund for London; Manchester Corporation Tramways; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal); Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers); Medway Lower Navigation; Merthyr Tydvil Stipendiary Justice; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund); Middlesbrough Corporation; Midland Railway; Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty; Newcastle-upon-Tyne Corporation; Newquay and District Water; North British Railway (Substituted Bill); Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation; Oxford and District Tramways; Pontypridd Urban District Council; Portishead District Water; Royal Insurance Company; St. Neot's Urban District Council; Selsey Water and Gas; Sheffield Corporation; Society of Apothecaries of London; South Lincolnshire Water; Southend Corporation; Southend Water; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board; Staveley Coal and Iron Company; Sutton Coldfield Rectory; Tees Conservancy; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation); Tyne Improvement; Tynemouth Corporation (Water); United Methodist Church; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board; West Riding Tramways; West Yorkshire Tramways; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier; Wisbech Water; York (Micklegate Strays).

And they have certified that the Standing Orders have not been complied with in the following cases, viz.:—Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways; York and District Tramways.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS [LORDS] (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petitions for the following Bills, originating in the Lords, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways [Lords]; York and District Tramways [Lords].

Ordered, "That the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders."

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers on the Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Company," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, etc.) Bill, "to empower the Alexandra

(Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Company to raise additional capital for the construction and completion of the dock extension and other works in connection therewith, authorised by the Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway Acts, 1904 and 1906, and for the general purposes of their undertaking," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers on the Annfield Plain and District Gas Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Armagh Urban District Council Bill, "for empowering the Urban District Council of Armagh to acquire the undertaking of the Armagh Toll Committee; for extinguishing the Council's liability to pay an annual road contribution to the Armagh County Council; for making further provision for the health and improvement of the district; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Basingstoke Gas Bill, "for conferring further powers upon the Basingstoke Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill, "to authorise the Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Company to construct a new railway, to acquire additional lands and to raise further money; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Brighouse Corporation Bill, "to confer further powers upon the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of the borough of Brighouse in regard to their electricity undertaking, and to make further provision in regard to the health, local government, and improvement of the borough; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Bristol Corporation Bill, "to empower the Lord Mayor, aldermen and burgesses of the city of Bristol to raise further moneys for completion of authorised dock works; to make provision with respect to tonnage dues; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill, "to incorporate the Brockenhurst Gas Company and to enable that Company to supply with gas the parish of Brockenhurst, in the county of Southampton," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Bude Gas Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers upon the Bude Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Cardiff Railway Bill, "to amend the powers of the Cardiff Railway Company with respect to the levying of rates upon steam vessels using the docks of the Company at Cardiff; and to make provisions as to pilotage rates," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Central London Railway Bill, "to confer further powers on the Central London Railway Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Channel Tunnel Railway Bill, "for incorporating the Channel Tunnel Railway Company and empowering them to construct railways and other works in the county of Kent and the foreshore and bed of the English Channel; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Falmouth Gas Bill, "for conferring further powers upon the Falmouth Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill, "to remove the restrictions in respect of sulphur compounds (other than Sulphuretted Hydrogen) now imposed upon certain gas companies," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Grays and Tilbury Gas Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers on the Grays and Tilbury Gas Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Great Central Railway Bill, "to authorise the construction of new works and taking of lands by the Great Central Railway Company; to sanction and confirm agreements between the Great Central Railway Company and the Blyton and Frodingham and North Lindsey Light Railway Companies and to authorise the construction of new railways and a pier in the county of Lincoln by the Great Central Railway Company and the North Lindsey Light Railway Company; to authorise the construction of new works and the taking of lands for the Sheffield District Railway; to authorise the construction of new railways by the Great Central Railway Company and the Great Northern Railway Company for the purposes of the West Riding and Grimsby Railways; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Great Northern and City Railway Bill, "to revive and extend the powers for the purchase of lands and to extend the time limited for the completion of the railway and works authorised by The Great Northern and City Railway Act, 1902; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill, "to enable the Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies to construct certain railways in the counties of Glamorgan and Monmouth; and to enable the Great Western Railway Company in connection with such railways to construct new railways and a deviation of their Monmouthshire (Western Valleys) Railway; to authorise the appointment of a Joint Committee; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Bill, "to amend the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Acts of 1886 and 1900, to confer further powers upon the Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Commissioners; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill, "to authorise the Hull and Barnsley Railway Company to construct a pier and railways at Hull, and to purchase additional lands; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill, "to define and sanction the existing water undertaking of the Urban District Council of Keswick, in the county of Cumberland; to authorise the construction of new works; to define the limits for the supply of water; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill, "to confer further powers upon the Urban District Council of King's Norton and Northfield with respect to tramways, electric lighting, and main roads, and to make further and better provision for the good government of the said district; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill, "to authorise the Corporation of Kingston-upon-Hull to acquire the undertaking of the East Hull Gas Company, and to empower them to construct a tramway and to make further provision in regard to the local government and improvement of the city; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill, "to authorise the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to construct new railways; to widen certain existing railways and to construct other works; to acquire additional lands and to raise additional capital; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Leeds Corporation Bill, "to empower the Corporation of Leeds to construct additional waterworks and works for sewage purposes, and to acquire lands; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers on the Llandrindod Wells Gas Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

London and North Western Railway Bill, "for conferring further powers upon the London and North Western Railway Company in relation to their own undertaking and upon that Company in conjunction with the Great Western Railway Company in relation to their joint undertaking; for enabling the Company to work their railways by electrical power; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill, "to amend the provisions of the London and North Western Railway Act, 1854, with respect to superannuation fund," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill, "to confer powers on the London County Council with respect to the supply of electrical energy in the administrative county of London and neighbouring areas; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill, "to empower the London County Council to execute works and acquire lands; to make provisions for the health and well-being of the inhabitants of the county of London; to confer powers upon the council of the metropolitan borough of Camberwell; and for other purposes," presented and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

London Electric Supply Bill, "to make further provisions with respect to the supply of electrical energy in London and surrounding districts; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

London Port and Docks Bill, "to impose rates on goods imported into the Port of London; and to make provision for the improvement of the dock accommodation at, and the navigation of, the said port; and for other purposes," presented and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

London United Tramways Bill, "to empower the London United Tramways (1901), Limited, to construct a subway for foot passengers in the metropolitan borough of Hammersmith; and for the extension of the time limited by the London United Tramways Act, 1901, the London United Tramways Act, 1902, and the London United Tramways Act, 1904, for the construction of tramways and the acquisition of lands," presented, and read the first time: and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Lower Thames Tunnel Railways Bill, "to incorporate the Lower Thames Tunnel Railway Company, and authorising that Company to construct railways connecting the London, Tilbury, and Southend Railway with the South Eastern Railway by means of a tunnel under the River Thames; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Maidstone Gas Bill, "for extending the limits of supply of the Maidstone Gas Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Bill, "to amend the powers of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board with respect to the levying of rates; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, &c.) Bill, "to provide for uniform scales of charges for water applicable throughout the limits of supply of the Metropolitan Water Board; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill, "to empower the Metropolitan Water Board to make waterworks and other works and to acquire lands; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Mitcham and Wimbledon District Gas Bill, "to authorise the Mitcham and

Wimbledon District Gas Light Company to construct new works; to raise additional capital; to convert their existing capital; and for other purposes." presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Bill, to revive and extend the period limited by the Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Acts, 1903 and 1904, for the compulsory purchase of lands and to extend the period limited by those Acts for the construction of the railways and works by those Acts authorised; to authorise the County Councils of the counties of Westmeath and Meath, and the Corporation of Drogheda, to grant guarantees in respect of the capital of the Mullingar, Kells, and Drogheda Railway Company; to make provision as to the purchase of the undertaking of the Company by the said County Councils and corporation and the appointment and powers of a Joint Committee; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway Bill, "to extend the time for the compulsory purchase of lands for and for the construction of the Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynaman Railway; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways Bill, "for enabling the North Eastern Railway Company and the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company to construct railways in the West Riding of the County of York; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

North-East London Railway Bill, "for conferring further powers upon the North-East London Railway Company with respect to their undertaking, for authorising agreements with the Great Eastern, the North London, the London and South Western, the Midland, the City and South London, the Central London, the Metropolitan District, and the Metropolitan Railway Companies; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill, "to confer further powers upon the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

North Staffordshire Railway Bill, "to confer further powers upon the North Staffordshire Railway Company, to confirm an agreement for the purchase by that company of the railway of the Cheadle Railway Company, Limited; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Penrith Urban District Council Bill, "to authorise the Urban District Council of Penrith to construct additional waterworks, to extend the limits of the Council for the supply of gas, to enlarge the powers of the Council in regard to the supply of water and gas, to confer further powers on the Council in regard to markets and fairs and for the utilisation of lands allotted under an enclosure award, and to make further and better provision with regard to the improvement, health, local government, and finance of the district; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill, "for the abandonment of the Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill, "to confer further powers upon the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill, "to confirm an agreement relating to the supply of electricity in the borough of Richmond (Surrey); and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Shanklin Gas Bill, "for incorporating and conferring powers on the Shanklin Gas Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill, "to empower the South Wales Mineral Railway Company to construct a deviation railway; to abandon part of their existing railway; to raise further money; to enter into working agreements with the Great Western, the Rhondda and Swansea Bay, and the Taff Vale Railway Companies, and the Port Talbot Railway and Docks Company; to enable those companies to subscribe for shares or stock; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Sunderland Corporation Bill, "to make further provision in regard to the burial grounds for the borough of Sunderland and the parishes of Bishopwearmouth Without and Fulwell, in the county of Durham, and in regard to the electricity undertaking of the mayor, aldermen, and burgesses of that borough, and the health, local government, and improvement of the borough; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Swansea Harbour Bill, "to authorise the Swansea Harbour Trustees to further extend the West Pier of Swansea Harbour, and to construct a breakwater on the eastern side of the entrance channel of the said harbour; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and ordered to be read a second time.

Taff Vale Railway Bill, "to confer further powers on the Taff Vale Railway Company; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill, "to confer further powers on the Watford and Edgware Railway Company, to extend the time limited by The Edgware and Hampstead Railway Act, 1905, and The Watford and Edgware Railway Act, 1906, for the purchase of certain lands, to authorise certain works, to authorise agreements between the Watford and Edgware Railway Company and other companies; and for other purposes," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Worthing Gas Bill, "to confer further powers upon the Worthing Gas Light and Coke Company," presented, and read the first time; and referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill, "to confirm a Provisional Order made by one of His Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State under The Provisional Order (Marriages) Act, 1905," presented by Mr. Herbert Samuel; supported by Mr. Secretary Gladstone; read the first time; to be referred to the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, and to be printed. [Bill 4.]

PETITIONS.

PARLIAMENTARY FRANCHISE.

Petitions for extension to women; from Ramsgate; and South Kensington; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Aston Manor, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

VARATHANUNTHAJEE, PRINCE VIJIGA.

Petition of Prince Vijiga Varathanunthajee, for redress of grievances; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES, 1906–7).

Estimate presented, of the further sums required to be voted for the Service of the year ending 31st March, 1907 (by Command); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 13.)

BREWERS' LICENCES.

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 13th February; *Mr. Runciman*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 14.)

LOCAL TAXATION (IRELAND) ACCOUNT.

Copy presented, of Account of Receipts and Payments for each financial year from 1st April, 1899, to 31st March, 1906 (by Act); to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. (No. 15.)

POST OFFICE (INLAND) POST.

Copy presented, of the Inland Post Amendment (No. 9) Warrant, 1907, dated 21st January, 1907 (by Act); to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (MONEY) ORDERS.

Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated 21st December, 1906 (by Act); to lie upon the Table.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Selangor Mahommedan Mosque.

MR. MASSIE (Wiltshire, Cricklade): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the British Resident at the Malay State of Selangor recommended the Council, at a meeting held at Kuala Lumpur on 26th November 1906, to agree that the Native Government should contribute out of public funds, dollar for dollar of the amount raised by subscription up to an aggregate sum of $30,000 for the erection of a Mahommedan mosque in that city; and whether His Majesty's Government will take steps to prevent this State endowment of religion out of Native public funds.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State has no information on the subject, but it would appear to be one which can safely be left to the discretion of the Sultan and his advisers.

Uganda Railway—Beer and Spirit Freightage.

MR. ARMITAGE (Leeds, Central): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what rates are charged on the Uganda Railway for the carriage of ale and beer, spirits, and wine respectively.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) Ale and beer are carried on the Uganda Railway as second class goods at 2·1 pies per cwt. per mile, wines as third class goods at 3 pies per cwt. per mile, and spirits as fourth class goods at 5·4 pies per cwt. per mile. The through rates are approximately equivalent to 4s. 9d., 6s. 10d., and 12s. 3d. per cwt. between Mombasa and Nairobi, and 10s. 6d., 14s. 2d., and 23s. 11d. per cwt. between Mombasa and Entebbe.

Steamers on Lake Victoria.

MR. ARMITAGE: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what arrangements have been made to supply the lack of steamers working in connection with the Uganda Railway.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) A third passenger and cargo steamer, the "Clement Hill," was launched on Lake Victoria on the 22nd of December. In addition, a twin-screw cargo steamer of about 1,000 tons, with carrying capacity for 500 tons of cargo, is being constructed, and is due for delivery at Glasgow about the end of March. It is hoped by these means to keep abreast of the growing volume of trade and business during the next two years.

East Africa—Trade in Alcoholic Liquors.

MR. ARMITAGE: To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what regulations are in force in East Africa in regard to the importation and sale of alcoholic liquors.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) East Africa lies within the liquor traffic zone defined by the general Act of the Brussels Conference 1889–90, and the importation of alcoholic liquors is regulated in accordance with the provisions of that Act and the subsequent International Conventions dealing with the subject, namely, those signed at Brussels in 1899 and 1906. By the latter Convention, which has not yet been finally ratified by all the signatory Powers, it has been agreed that the minimum duty on imported spirits shall be fixed at about 3s. 8d. per gallon for a strength of 12½ degrees below "proof." The sale of alcoholic liquor is regulated by the local ordinances and rules, of which copies are enclosed for perusal and return.

Bovine Tuberculosis.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state what was the total cost of the Report of the Royal Commission on Bovine Tuberculosis; whether the fact has come under his notice that the flesh of a tuberculous bull, slaughtered by order of the Argentine Republic, was publicly partaken of by a number of gentlemen deeply interested in live stock; whether he is aware that no ill effects followed as the result of the consumption of this tuberculous meat; and whether he will make inquiry into this matter through the Argentine Government.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I understand that the cost of the recent Report of the Royal Commission was £136 15s. 11d. This is exclusive of the cost of the Appendix, which has not at present been issued. I have not received any information as to the matter mentioned in the latter part of the Question, except that contained in a newspaper cutting which my hon. friend was good enough to send me, but I am advised that it would be unsafe to draw any general inference from a single meal such as that referred to.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

SIR FRANCIS CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board in how many instances sanitary authorities have applied, since the circular of August, 1905, to have cerebro-spinal fever scheduled as a notifiable disease under the Act of 1889; and whether, having regard to the urgency of this matter, he will forthwith introduce a Bill to include this disease as compulsorily notifiable.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) There have been thirteen local authorities who, since the issue of the circular, have, with the approval of the Local Government Board, made cerebro-spinal fever a notifiable disease for a limited period. Under the Act of 1889 the local authority in the case of an emergency, can at any meeting, held after three days notice, make an order to the effect that the disease shall be compulsorily notifiable. The order is to be advertised forthwith, and comes into force at the expiration of a week from the date of the advertisement. The order would not remain in force for more than a month except with the approval of the Local Government Board; but I am quite prepared to give approval in any case in which it may appear to be necessary that the disease should be made notifiable. My hon. friend will see that the proceedings under the Act involve as little loss of time as is possible, and it does not seem to me necessary to bring in a Bill on the subject.

Irish Cattle Industry.

MR. FIELD: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether his attention has been called to a statement made at a meeting held in London in December last to promote the entrance of Canadian store cattle into Great Britain, respecting the percentage of imported Irish cattle alleged to be tuberculised, and to the repetition of this statement recently at Liverpool; whether he is aware that the meat traders who handle Irish fat cattle and also the buyers of Irish store live stock have protested against those statements; and whether he will utilise the officials at his command to inquire into and report upon those allegations.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) Our attention has been called to the statement to which my hon. friend refers. It was purely hypothetical in character, and merely expressed the personal belief of its author. I am afraid it would be impracticable to institute any general inquiry into the freedom of Irish cattle from tubercular disease, but my noble friend will communicate with the Irish Department of Agriculture on the subject.

Gambling in Options and Futures.

MR. FIELD: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can state when the promised Blue-book on Foreign Legislation on Options and Futures will be issued; and whether it will contain information upon the subject up to date.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The Return has been presented and will be issued in the course of a few days. It will contain the most recent information available.

Judicial Etiquette.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for the

Home Department whether he will consider the propriety of introducing legislation to prevent judicial officers from making any extra judicial explanation, vindication, or apology, such as was published by and purported to have been made to the representative of a daily paper by the chairman of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions in respect of a case decided by such quarter sessions, which was recently reviewed by the Home Office.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I do not see my way to propose any legislation for the purpose indicated. I think the rule of etiquette which forbids a judicial officer from publishing an explanation or defence of his judicial conduct in a newspaper is right and ought to be maintained; but it would be going too far to say that if a chairman of Quarter Sessions, who has been the object of unjustifiable attacks, breaks the rule and attempts to defend himself he is to be subjected to a penalty.

Ganges Bridge Committee.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether a representative of the planters of Assam and Darjeeling will be added to the Ganges Bridge Committee, or whether the opinion of the planting community will be invited upon the finding of the Committee.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Ganges Bridge Committee contains representatives of the Bengal Chambers of Commerce, and I am not aware that there is any intention to add a direct representative of the planters of Assam and Darjeeling; but no doubt due weight will be given to all the interests concerned before the Government of India's recommendations on the Report of the Committee are submitted to me.

Hamburg-American Steamers in the Persian Gulf.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will give the House any statistics which may be available regarding the trade done by the state-subsidised Hamburg-American Steamship Company in the Persian Gulf in the last past year.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's Government have received the following information on this subject:—The "Canadia," of the Hamburg-American line, the first vessel of this line which has visited Bussorah, arrived in that port on the 5th September, and sailed for the bar to complete her cargo on the 18th September. She sailed from Hamburg on the 16th July with 240 cases of matches and 241 packages of general cargo, and took 220 bags of sugar and 850 packages of general cargo from Antwerp, and 206 packages of general cargo from Marseilles, and a few details from Suez, thus completing her full burden of 3,500 tons. Her general cargo consisted principally of glass, liquor, iron, chinaware, and wood. The "Canadia" took from Bussorah 1,300 tons of unhusked rice for Hamburg and Rotterdam, and about 1,600 tons of dates for transhipment at Hamburg to New York, and sundries. She sailed with a full cargo. The "Canadia" will be followed by the "Sicilia," which arrives shortly, and has, I hear, already booked a full return cargo. The service from Hamburg to Bussorah will be a monthly one, the vessels calling at Antwerp, Marseilles, Port Said, Suez, Port Soudan, Jibuti, Muscat (occasionally), Lingah, and Bushire. Outward freight is booked, at present, from 20s. to 22s. 6d. per ton, and homeward freight at 17s. 6d. per ton.

Free Primary Education in India.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will supply to the Library a copy of the Government of India's recent Resolution on free primary education.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I shall be glad to place in the Library a copy of the Government of India's circular letter to the local governments on the question of free primary education, which is no doubt the document to which the hon. Member refers.

Travellers and Tibet.

MR. REES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he will consider the propriety of relaxing the veto placed upon crossing the Tibetan frontier from the Indian side, in view of the fact that travellers and explorers experience no difficulty in entering the country from China and Russian Central Asia.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) Russia, I may remind my hon. friend, is not coterminous with Tibet. The political and diplomatic reasons that led His Majesty's Government to prohibit the entry of travellers and explorers from India into Tibet are still in force, and I see no sufficient ground for reconsidering the question at present nor for a certain period which is not likely to be unlimited in duration.

Cost of House Accommodation at Poona.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has yet received from the Government of India any Report on his inquiries as to the provision of house accommodation for young married officers at Poona and the high cost of rental; and whether, as he has recently sanctioned proposals of the Government of India for an extended grant of house-rent allowances to Government officers, both civil and military, at Calcutta, he will consider the extension of similar relief to officers stationed at Poona.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have as yet received no Report on this subject, but the Government of India are giving it their attention, and have promised to report to me in due course.

Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund.

SIR SEYMOUR KING: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that discontent exists among the officers of the Indian Army with regard to the failure of the Government to publish any accounts of the Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund since 1901, when accounts were published up to 31st March, 1898, showing a balance of over a million sterling at credit of the fund; whether he is aware that, nevertheless, the rates of subscription were increased; whether a separate *pro forma* account has been kept of all contributions levied and all payments made, and of the interest which would have been allowed upon such contributions if a mutual insurance fund had actually been established as provided by the Government Order of 28th December, 1872; and whether he will at once cause these accounts to be published up-to-date, together with the actuarial calculations on which it was resolved by the Secretary of State in 1901 to increase the contributions levied on officers to the rates at present in force.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) My attention has been drawn to certain articles in the public Press relative to the Indian Military Service Family Pension regulations. The assets and liabilities arising under those regulations are valued quinquennially. The valuations are published in the *Gazette of India*, and the rates of subscription revised with a view to maintaining an equilibrium between the liabilities and assets. The sixth quinquennial valuation has been completed by the actuary of the India Office and is now in the hands of a consulting actuary for his independent investigation and report, which will be published in due course. I see no reason for publishing the half-yearly *pro forma* accounts, which, without a detailed valuation of prospective liabilities by the actuary to the India Office, might lead to a serious misapprehension as to the financial position of the fund.

Boat Club Houses on the Liffey.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state how often the Board of Works meet, and how long it takes to consider and to reply to applications; whether he is aware that the Dublin Rowing Club made application for the site of a club house on the River Liffey many months since and have not yet received a reply; and whether he will have this application considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Board meets every day and holds formal meetings once a week. The hon. Member was informed, I understand, on the 6th instant that the Board was arranging for an interview with the representatives of the Dublin Rowing Club, and I now learn that this interview is to be held on the 14th instant. I regret the delay of which the hon. Member complains, but I am informed that the Board's decision had to await the settlement of questions of a more general character which has only recently been arranged.

Midleton Fair Rent Applications.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, having regard to the fact that several fair rent applications are outstanding in the neighbourhood, steps will be taken with a view to the holding of a sitting of a Sub-Commission of the Irish Land Commission in Midleton, county Cork, at an early date.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Land Commission inform me that a sitting of the Sub-Commission Court will be held at Midleton on 8th March, at which all outstanding applications received before 1st December last will be listed for hearing.

Roman Catholic Archbishop at Malta

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief at Malta has yet furnished the Report asked for as to the military rank, if any, held by the Roman Catholic Archbishop, and the military honour paid to this prelate by the turning out of the guard when he passes; and, if so, will it be laid upon the Table of the House, together with all the correspondence on the subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Report in question has been furnished. It appears that the practice under which the military guard mounted at the main guard of the Palace Valetta turns out to the archbishop has been in existence for over a century. This is done on the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with the concurrence of the War Department. I do not think that it would add any useful information were I to lay Papers upon the Table as suggested in the Question.

Salisbury Plain—Civilians Building on Government Land.

CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is contemplated to allow any civilians, contractors, or otherwise to erect permanent buildings on Government land on Salisbury Plain; whether plans for any such buildings have been deposited at the War Office; if so, how and by whom such firms would be chosen; and whether at Aldershot such buildings have been found detrimental to the public service by interfering with troops manœuvring.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The general question of the advisability of providing buildings of the nature of private residences, shops, stores, etc., at stations such as Tidworth is now receiving careful consideration. Certain plans of the nature alluded to in the Question have from time to time been deposited at the War Office. As regards Aldershot, no such buildings have been permitted on War Department land. It is not therefore apparent to what buildings the hon. and gallant Member is alluding.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Distribution of the Navy—The West Indies.

MR. RENDALL (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the redistribution of His Majesty's ships on the North American and West Indian Station took place under the late Government; and whether any alteration in the number and disposition of His Majesty's ships in the neighbourhood of the West Indies has been made since the present Government came into power.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, no alteration in the number and disposition of His Majesty's ships in the neighbourhood of the West Indies has been made since the present Government came into power.

MR. RENDALL suggested some steps should be taken to apprise Conservative candidates of these facts.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether his attention had been drawn to the speech of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies at Leeds, and whether there had been any negotiations between the Admiralty, the Foreign Office, and the Colonial Office on the subject.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said his attention had not been drawn to the speech referred to, and so far as he knew there had been no negotiations of the kind referred to.

Mr. BELLAIRS : The speech appeared in *The Times* of 6th February.

Volunteer Officers' Liabilities.

Mr. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been directed to the judgment of Mr. Justice Walton in the case of "Samuel Brothers *v.* Colonel Wetherly's executors;" and whether he will take immediate steps either to remove the personal liability of Volunteer commanding officers for debts contracted by them on behalf of their corps, or to limit such liability to the amount by which such debts, contracted during any year or period of years, exceeded the capitation grants due to the corps during such year or period of years.

The SECRETARY of STATE for WAR (Mr. Haldane, Haddington): My attention has been called to this case. This liability of commanding officers of Volunteer corps arises under statute law and can only be got rid of by statute. The Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill, of which I have given notice, will, it is hoped, provide for the removal of this personal liability from the commanding officers.

Woolwich Explosion.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he has received any application from the Mayor of Woolwich with regard to the reinstatement of property destroyed by the recent explosion, and what proposals his Department have to make on the subject.

Mr. HALDANE : I have received an application from the Mayor of Woolwich as to the reinstatement of the property destroyed by the explosion at Woolwich. As the House is aware, the Crown is not liable for damage of this kind, but the Government do not consider that this is an occasion on which they ought to stand on a technical rule. I think that the Government would have the concurrence of the House in making good the amount of the actual damage done. Some careful investigation will have to be made of what the damage really was; but the Chancellor of the Exchequer has, with commendable promptitude, enabled me to telegraph a sum of £6,000 in order to deal with the more necessitous cases as promptly as possible.

Army (Annual) Bill.

*Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has been able to give attention, since the debates on the Army (Annual) Bill last year, to any suggestions that may have been made by the Inspector-General of the Forces with a view to Amendment in the Bill of the present year.

Mr. HALDANE : The special points raised by the Inspector-General of the Forces in respect of military punishments to which my right hon. friend would appear to allude, have, I believe, all been met, partly by the provisions included in last year's Army (Annual) Bill and partly by Amendments of the King's Regulations promulgated by Army Order 36 of this year. No other points raised by him would appear to involve legislation by the Army (Annual) Bill.

Chinese Coolies in the Transvaal.

Mr. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, within the last few weeks, over 2,000 Chinese coolies have been imported into the Transvaal; and whether, in view of the assurance given to Parliament by the Secretary of State on the 6th July last that before the end of the year the importation of Chinese coolies would have ceased, he can explain under what authority, on what grounds, and for the benefit of what mines, the recent importations were allowed.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): Some 2,000 coolies arrived in January. All recruiting in China ceased on 30th November in accordance with the pledge given, but these men, who were recruited under licenses issued in circumstances which, as has been explained, were beyond the control of His Majesty's present advisers, did not, owing to the length of the journey, actually arrive until the present year had set in. Information as to particular mines to which these coolies were allotted has not yet been received.

Mr. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies how many indentured Chinese labourers arrived in the Transvaal during the month of January.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The number was 2,121.

Transvaal Revenue and Gold Output.

Mr. MORRELL: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, since the introduction of Chinese labour, although the output of gold has increased, the revenue of the Transvaal has shown no expansion, and the takings for Customs and railways have fallen off; if so, to what extent; whether the number of bankruptcies in the Colony have increased; and whether he can give the figures for the last two years.

Mr. CHURCHILL: My hon. friend's Question is couched in terms which do not enable me to give a precise Answer, but I am happy to be able to give him the following figures. The gold output for the Transvaal for the month of June, 1904, (the month in which the first batch of Chinese coolies arrived on the Rand), was £1,309,766. The output for the month of November, 1906, (the last month for which official statistics are available), was £2,296,984. The ordinary revenue of the Transvaal for the past three years has been—

Year ended June 30th,	1904	£4,423,000
,, ,, ,,	1905	£4,386,000
,, ,, ,,	1906	£4,587,000

The Transvaal Customs revenue during the same period has been—

Year ended June 30th,	1904	£1,760,000
,, ,, ,,	1905	£1,591,000
,, ,, ,,	1906	£1,699,000

The net receipts of the Central South African Railways for the same period were—

Year ended June 30th,	1904	£1,617,000
,, ,, ,,	1905	£1,760,000
,, ,, ,,	1906 approximately	£1,635,000

on the same basis.

In the matter of insolvent estates, during the year ending June 30th, 1904, 154 notices of intention to surrender were gazetted, 414 orders of sequestration were filed, and 250 warrants from the Master of the Supreme Court were executed. In the year ended June 30th, 1905, 167 notices of intention to surrender were gazetted, 385 orders of sequestration were filed, and 260 warrants from the Master of the Supreme Court were executed. The figures for the year ended June 30th, 1906, are not yet available.

Unemployed Australians in South Africa.

Mr. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the distress among the unemployed white men at Johannesburg is so great that Mr. J. B. Robinson has given a sum of £5,000 for their relief; whether, in consequence of the distress, the Australian Government has been asked to take steps to repatriate the Australians who can find no work on the Rand; whether, for many months past, there has been a continued exodus of white men from the Transvaal; and whether His Majesty's Government have taken, or propose to take, any steps to check this state of things.

Mr. CHURCHILL: There is acute distress among white men who are unable to find work. I have no official information as to the reported gift by Mr. J. B. Robinson. In consequence of an inquiry from Lord Selborne the New South Wales Government has undertaken to advance money for repatriating immigrants of good character from New South Wales. Many men have no doubt been leaving the Transvaal, but I cannot give figures. The state of affairs indicated in the question is occupying a great deal of attention in the Transvaal and is the subject of a special inquiry. I observe many references to it in the political speeches which are being made with a view to the coming election. It will no doubt engage the attention of the new Government who will be in a far better position to deal with it than are the present administration.

Mr. FIENNES (Oxfordshire, Banbury): Is it not a fact that the distress among the Australian miners and other workmen in South Africa is due to the attitude of the hon. Member for Newbury and those closely associated with him?

[No Answer was returned.]

Repatriation of Chinese Coolies.

MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether upwards of 1,400 Chinese coolies on the Rand have applied for assistance from the Imperial Government to enable them to go home, and only 552 have so far been repatriated; whether eighty applicants withdrew their applications; and, if so, whether he can say when those who still wish to go will be repatriated, and at whose instigation and what were the reasons why the eighty applications were withdrawn.

MR. CHURCHILL: Five hundred and fifty two coolies had been repatriated at the expense of His Majesty's Government up to the end of October. Since that date certain additional applications have been approved, the number of which is believed to be approximately 200, and the approved applicants will be repatriated at an early date. No statistics are yet available as to the total number of applications, or as to the grounds for the withdrawal or refusal of such applications in certain cases. But applications are known to have been refused in some cases because the applicants proved to be undesirables and therefore proper subjects for repatriation at the expense of the mine-owners; and in others, because they were found to be in possession of funds sufficient to enable them to pay for their own repatriation under Clause XIV. of the contract of service.

Repatriation Delays.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that over 900 Chinese coolies were detained on the Rand awaiting repatriation; and whether these coolies are being repatriated for reasons connected with the report of Mr. Bucknill; and what is the total number of coolies repatriated or marked for repatriation for such reasons.

MR. CHURCHILL: The information asked for is not at present available, but a telegram will be sent to Lord Selborne asking him to supply it.

Chinese Coolie Contracts.

MR. BELLOC (Salford, S.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the fact that the three years contracts with the Chinese coolies in the Transvaal gold mines may be renewed for limited periods; and whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to recede in any way from the statement made by the Secretary of State in Parliament on the 17th December last that the Government respected the contracts for three years but forbade renewals.†

MR. CHURCHILL: Under Section 50 of the Letters Patent no contract under the Labour Importation Ordinance can be renewed in the absence of further legislation. The Secretary of State has nothing at present to add to his statement made on 17th December.†

Labour Recruiting in Portuguese East Africa.

MR. BELLOC: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any progress has been made in the negotiations between His Majesty's Government and the Portuguese Government for putting an end to the monopoly for recruiting Kaffirs in Portuguese territory in East Africa enjoyed by the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association; and whether the Robinson group of mines have yet been granted equal facilities for recruiting.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Portuguese Government, whose readiness to meet their wishes in the matter is recognised by His Majesty's Government, have agreed to the appointment of a joint Commission to inquire and report what system of recruiting and distributing natives from Portuguese East Africa will ensure the largest and most continuous supply of labour to the mines of the Transvaal, provided that:—1. Such natives are recruited voluntarily and are subjected to the most humane treatment (a) at the point of recruitment; (b) on the road; and (c) at the point of employment. 2. That the conditions are such as are compatible with the satisfactory and economic working of the mines. 3. That no detriment accrues to the political interests of the Transvaal or of the province of Mozambique. On the day of the meeting of the Commission, which will be fixed at as early a date as possible, the Portuguese Government have agreed to denounce their agreement with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. I understand that Mr. Holmes, who represents Mr. Robinson, is at liberty to engage natives under the licence granted to him, and that the facilities accorded him have lately been extended, but it is not clear how far he has yet availed himself of these facilities; and further inquiry on this point was made last week to which an answer may soon be expected.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 943.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Will the Commission sit before the Transvaal elections are completed?

MR. CHURCHILL: I shall make the appointment as quickly as possible.

New Mine Drill for the Rand.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has any official information showing the result of experiments made in the Robinson mine, on the Rand, with a new drill working a 30-inch stope; and what effect this new drill is likely to have upon the supply of coloured labour required for the gold mines.

MR. CHURCHILL: A report by the Acting Government Mining Engineer upon the drill referred to says that he is of opinion that it is too soon to make any definite statements as regards the economic value of the new drill, but it appears as if it would enable economies in native labour to be effected and would also reduce the cost of working narrow stopes by saving the breaking of worthless waste rock. Unofficial statements have been made of a still more satisfactory character.

Lagos Flogging Case.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if damages have been awarded to the native dock labourers at Lagos who were recently flogged by the order of a British port official, the judge describing the flogging as illegal and unjustifiable; and, if so, would he state what punishment has been meted out to the port official responsible for the flogging.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has no reason to doubt the correctness of the statement which has appeared in the Press that damages with costs have been awarded to the labourers who were flogged. The official concerned was summoned before the Governor and the Executive Council of the Colony and was censured. He has been further punished by the cancelling of an advantageous appointment which had been offered to and accepted by him shortly before the incident occurred.

Chinese Opium Taxes.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has information to the effect that the Government of China proposes to increase the existing taxes on Chinese-grown opium, in the same proportion as that by which it asks that the import duty on Indian opium may be increased; and whether the Foreign Office has any information whether the Chinese drug is steadily supplanting the imported article among the population of China.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The Chinese Government has increased the duty on native opium, which until now has varied in the different provinces, to a uniform rate of 115 taels; this is higher than the duty on imported opium, and proposals for a corresponding enhancement of the duty on this latter article are under consideration by His Majesty's Government. As to the supplanting of imported opium by the home-grown drug I have no trustworthy information. According to the Consular Report on the foreign trade of China for 1904–5, imports of foreign opium have decreased by nearly 22 per cent. during the last thirty years. The same Report states that the production of native opium has increased during the period. In the absence of accurate statistics it is impossible to say to what extent native opium has supplanted the foreign product.

Indian Opium in China.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the British Commercial Attaché in China has reported that the decline in the import of Indian opium into China is due, not to a decrease in the use of the drug, but to the fact that the production of native opium increases year by year without restriction, and that the taxation of indigenous opium produces a large revenue, all of which now goes to the Imperial instead of to Provincial Governments.

MR. MORLEY: The Answer to my hon. friend's Question is in the affirmative; but as I have said a moment ago I have reason to think that the inferences drawn in the Report to which he refers cannot be verified by statistics. I am without accurate information as to the allocation of the proceeds of the taxation of native opium.

Chinese Opium Statistics.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has information whereby the quantities of opium imported into and grown in China can be compared; whether, if the answer be in the affirmative, he will communicate such information to the House; and whether, if the reply is in the negative, he will instruct consular officers in China to obtain such information, in order to ascertain the correctness of the unofficial reports to the effect that the China-grown opium is, at the lowest estimate, five times that imported from India.

MR. MORLEY: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the negative. Consular officers in China will continue to obtain such information on the subject as is within their power, but, as stated by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in reply to a Question asked by the hon. Member for Ripon on 29th November last, more information than exists cannot be promised.†

Policeman's Day of Rest.

MR. ROBINSON (Brecknock): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to a statement of the chief constable of Reading that the introduction of one day's rest in seven for the members of his force, which has involved the engagement of only seventeen additional police, has resulted in the work being far better and more willingly done, and in a diminution of the sickness rate; and whether he would encourage the repetition of this successful experiment, either by securing an increase of the grant for the police or by other means.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): The statement is that seventeen men were added to the Reading Police Force. This would imply that one day's rest in seven requires an increase of more than 20 per cent. in numbers, and that it would in most places involve an expenditure which would be represented by an additional rate of more than a penny in the £. The matter is one to be decided by the ratepayers in the area of each police authority, and if, in order to induce other authorities to follow the example of Reading, it is necessary to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to provide a new grant, that, I regret to say, is a course which I cannot undertake to adopt.

Aliens Act—Cost of Administration.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, with reference to the 489 aliens rejected from landing during the first twelve months working of the Aliens Act, whether he can state what has been the cost during the same period of the alien immigration committees, officers, and all other charges involved in the working of the Aliens Act.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The payments from the Sub-heads of the Home Office Vote which relate to the administration of the Aliens Act actually made in respect of the year ended December 31st, 1906, amount to £11,445 13s. 10d., to which must be added about £350 for outstanding accounts, giving a total charge of about £11,800. I may say that the effect of the Act is not to be judged from the mere figures showing the alien immigrants to whom leave to land has been refused.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvi., 300.

Theft by Auxiliary Postmen.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the case of an auxiliary postman of Chiswick named Arthur Wilson, charged with stealing some butter from a postal packet on 7th February, whose wage was only 13s. 3d. per week, out of which he had to support a wife, two little children, his mother, and two young sisters; and, if so, whether it is his intention to take any action with a view to increasing the rate of pay of such men.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): Wilson is a paperhanger and painter who was employed by the Post Office as an auxiliary for part of the day only, at the authorised rate of wages. The rates of wages paid by the Post Office are under the consideration of a Select Committee of this House.

Underground Telegraph Wire to Aberdeen.

MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the fact that, owing to the snowstorm, Aberdeen was for several days cut off from communication with the rest of the world, except by cabling to Norway; and whether he will take steps to hasten the construction of underground telegraph wires between Aberdeen and Glasgow.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I have promised to see a Deputation shortly on the question of underground wires in Scotland and should prefer therefore to postpone any answer until after then.

American Gooseberry Mildew.

MR. BECK (Cambridgeshire, Wisbech): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what further steps the Board of Agriculture propose to take in connection with the outbreak of American gooseberry mildew in various parts of the United Kingdom.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S): My noble friend hopes to be in a position at an early date to introduce a Bill to confer further powers upon the Board and upon local authorities for dealing with pests destructive to agricultural or horticultural crops. In the meantime we are making every effort to supply growers with information as to the best method of combating the particular disease to which my hon. friend refers.

Swansea Education Dispute.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General, whether he has yet reported to the Government his opinion on the question raised by the Swansea local education authority relative to the salaries of the teachers in the non-provided schools in that borough.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said that though he would be pleased to give the noble Lord the information asked for, he objected on the ground that the question was one which should be addressed not to him but to the head of the Department concerned.

Holyrood Chapel Royal.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that the late Earl of Leven and Melville bequeathed £40,000 for the restoration of Holyrood Chapel Royal, and that the trustees under the will have decided not to carry out the restoration scheme; whether he will take any steps to secure that this sum should be utilised for the restoration of the Chapel Royal, as was the intention of the deceased Earl.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I understand the facts are as stated by the hon. Member. With regard to the second part of the Question, I am not in a position to take any steps in the direction suggested. I would refer my hon. friend to the reply given by the First Commissioner of Works to the hon. Member for Sutherland on 19th December, 1906.†

Irish National School Teachers and University Degrees.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the special grant to school teachers in Ireland who take out university degrees has been definitely cancelled; if so, how much saving is thereby effected; and will he favourably consider a renewal of the grant, with a view to attracting the best of Irishmen to the profession.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1517.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The hon. Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that a special grant has ever been given to Irish national school teachers who hold university degrees. The question of making any such grant is not at present under consideration.

Irish Education Grant.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Parliamentary grant for Irish primary education in the current year is £500,000 less than the Scottish grant, although the number of pupils in Ireland and Scotland is almost exactly the same; and whether he will favourably consider the question of granting an increase of salary to Irish teachers, so that the best possible class may be attracted to the profession.

MR. BIRRELL: It is the fact that the Parliamentary grant for Irish primary education in the current year is some £500,000 less than the Scottish grant for public education. This latter grant, however, includes educational services which do not fall under the head of primary education, and appears to be further swollen by a revote of £100,000 not expended in the previous year. The number of national school pupils nominally on the books in Ireland is 70,000 less than in Scotland, but the number in average attendance is nearly 200,000 less. I should be glad to see some improvement in the position of Irish national school teachers, which does not seem to be satisfactory, and will give the matter every possible consideration.

Cost of Teaching the Irish Language.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state how much money has been expended in the teaching of the Irish language during the past year, and how much has been contributed by national school teachers out of their salaries towards providing fuel for heating class-rooms during the severe winter weather; and whether he will withdraw all grants for the teaching of Irish and divert the funds so saved to warming national school class-rooms properly, so that the children compulsorily attending may avail themselves of educational facilities in comparative comfort.

MR. BIRRELL: The amount paid in special fees for the teaching of Irish as an extra subject in national schools during the year 1906 was £13,843. The Commissioners of National Education have no information as to any expenditure which may have been incurred by national school teachers in heating their schools. I am informed that the fuel used in the schools generally takes the form of turf, which is provided by the pupils, with occasional help from the teacher or manager. The Commissioners recently made proposals for placing the cost of heating upon the Votes, but the Treasury have felt unable to agree to these proposals.

CAPTAIN CRAIG: But many schools are outside the peat area. Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that his predecessor promised to deal with this question, which is urgent?

MR. BIRRELL said he quite agreed as to the absolute necessity for warming the schools, but in his present uninstructed position ho could say no more.

West of Ireland Potato Crop.

MR. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what steps, if any, will be taken by the Irish Government to deal with the distress prevailing in the west of Ireland consequent on the failure of last year's potato crop.

MR. BIRRELL: I am glad to say that the reports which have lately been received by the Government indicate that no apprehension of general distress in Ireland need be entertained, though in some areas in the western districts a limited number of families will require assistance. Under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1898, employment for wages, subject to conditions prescribed by the Local Government Board, may be afforded to all poor persons who are proper subjects for relief. The Government will be prepared, if necessary, to follow the precedent of 1905, and to defray such share of the extra expense incurred as may seem proper in each district. Whether, having regard to the limited nature of the distress, some other method of dealing with it may be devised, is engaging my serious attention.

Reenard Pier.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps, if any, will be taken to construct a pier at Reenard, near Cahirciveen, in view of the frequent representations that have been made on the subject.

MR. BIRRELL: I understand that the original scheme for improvements at Reenard included a proposed steam ferry from that place to Valentia, and it was understood that local assistance as regards the provision of the ferry might be expected. This expectation, however, has been disappointed, and the Irish Government are now considering the question of making improvements at Reenard to the exclusion of the ferry. The funds available under the Marine Works Act are now very limited, and the scheme in question is one of several which have to be considered in that connection.

Irish Evicted Tenants.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.) asked the Chief Secretary for Ireland the number of applications for reinstatement received from the Estates Commissioners from evicted tenants, and how they had been dealt with.

MR. BIRRELL: The total number of applications for reinstatement received to the 5th inst. was 6,680; and of these 3,627 have been investigated with the following results:—1,347 have been rejected either because the applicants were ineligible under the law or were unsuitable for reinstatement for other reasons, 644 have been reinstated, and the remaining 1,636 cases are not yet disposed of. The Estates Commissioners anticipate that the balance of 3,053 cases will have been investigated by May next. The amount authorised to be advanced to tenants for the improvement of their holdings, and the purchase of live stock, etc., is £33,085, of which £27,000 is a free grant.

North of Ireland Engineering Staff.

MR. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether, in view of the fact that he has at present under consideration a memorial from the headquarters staff of the North of Ireland engineering district relative to the retention of the headquarters at Belfast, he can say why instructions have been issued locally to the staff to proceed to Dublin on 1st March next; if arrangements are being made to have the office furniture removed to Dublin on the 27th inst.; whether it is the practice for subordinate officials to carry out suggested changes before he has given his final decision on appeal; and can he state when the latter decision may be expected.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The decision to remove the headquarters of the North and South of Ireland engineering district to Dublin was arrived at in December last and the necessary information was given to the staff with a view to the change being effected by the 1st of March. The staff at Cork and a number of the staff at Belfast have accepted the change. A memorial from the junior clerks at Belfast was considered in connection with and before the decision was given. A further memorial was received on 24th January which I am now answering. Meanwhile for the sake of the staff it was necessary to advise them to give notice of removal, such notices in Ireland being necessarily given on 1st February. If the decision were altered the notices could be cancelled.

Queenstown and the American Mail Service.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the Resolution recently adopted by the Queenstown Urban Council, pointing out that the contemplated change in the American mail service cannot fail to be detrimental to the commercial interests of both Great Britain and Ireland, inasmuch as the change must inevitably cause serious delay in the delivery and transmission of the Transatlantic mails throughout the chief manufacturing and business centres in England, and over the whole of Ireland and Scotland; and whether he proposes to take steps with a view to press these facts upon the notice of the American postal authorities.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: My attention has not been called to the Resolution otherwise than by notices in the public Press, and the enclosure in the letter from my hon. friend yesterday. The inquiries which I am having made as to the exact effect of the change in the time of delivery of the homeward mails from the United States of America to the United Kingdom are not quite complete. But the delivery of correspondence from the United States for London will be accelerated and in almost all cases correspondence for the South and West of England and for South Wales will benefit. It remains to be seen whether these postal advantages would be so outweighed by the disadvantage as regards the rest of the United Kingdom as to justify representations to the United States Government. I may add that as no payment is made to the company by the British Post Office for the conveyance of the mails from America to this country, I have no control whatever over the movements of the ships on their voyage eastwards. As regards the outward mails from the United Kingdom to the United States of America, for which payment is made to the White Star Line, I stipulated that their mail boat should continue to call at Queenstown, and therefore the present outward mail service will not be affected.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that this proposed alteration means the abandonment of the only regular weekly American mail service now disembarked at any Irish port?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I understand that some White Star vessels will call at Queenstown. I stipulated that if the change were made from Liverpool to Southampton some vessels should call at Queenstown.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Will the right hon. Gentleman take the steps suggested in the Question?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am getting all the information I can, and when I get it I will consider whether it is advisable to take further steps.

INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS.

*MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe) asked if, having regard to the importance of the matter, Mr. Speaker would be good enough to make authoritative statement as to the precise procedure for the introduction of Members so that a newly-elected Member might meet with no obstacle in taking his seat.

MR. MARKHAM (Nottinghamshire Mansfield) said the Clerk at the Table had accepted all responsibility for the regrettable oversight which prevented Mr. Harvey, the Member for North-East Derbyshire, taking his seat after due notice had been given, and Mr. Harvey wished it to be known that he attached no blame to anybody in the matter.

*MR. SPEAKER: I cannot do better than refer the right hon. Gentleman to Standing Order 84, which directs that no debate or business shall be interrupted for such a purpose. Members must subscribe the oath either before the Orders of the Day or Notices of Motion have been entered on or after they have been disposed of. I do not know that I can add anything to that. If I am informed that an hon. Member is desirous of taking his seat I look to the Bar and make use of the usual form. In the case of Mr. Harvey, by a regrettable oversight, I was not informed that he wished to take his seat. The fact that the hon. Member was standing at the Bar was not brought to my knowledge, and the unfortunate delay occurred.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

WILLIAM EDWIN HARVEY, esquire, for the County of Derby (North Eastern Division).

NEW BILLS.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

"To enable His Majesty's Postmaster-General to acquire lands in London, Chester, Bournemouth, Eastbourne, and New Southgate for the public service; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. Sydney Buxton; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 5.]

TELEGRAPH (CONSTRUCTION) BILL.

"To amend the Telegraph Acts, 1863 to 1906, with respect to the construction and maintenance of Telegraphic Lines," presented by Mr. Sydney Buxton; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd February, and to be printed. [Bill 6.]

BUTTER AND MARGARINE BILL.

"To make further provision with respect to the manufacture, importation and sale of Butter and Margarine and similar substances," presented by Sir Edward Strachey; to be read a second time to-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 7.]

NEW WRIT (BOROUGH OF WORCESTER).

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD (Somersetshire, Wellington) rose to move "That Mr. Speaker do issue his warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a new writ for the electing of a Member to serve in this present Parliament for the borough of Worcester, in the room of George Henry Williamson, Esq., whose election has been declared to be void."

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) on a point of order, said that he objected to this Motion, inasmuch as sufficient time had not been given for it. The rule was that two clear days notice should elapse from the time when the notice of Motion was given, and, as the Motion had only appeared on the Paper the previous day, the two clear days had not expired. Two clear days had always been interpreted to mean two intervening days; and therefore the first available day for this Motion should be to-morrow. He asserted that Sir Erskine May was very emphatic on this point.

*MR. SPEAKER: I do not think the hon. Member is correct in his contention. He has omitted to observe that the Order which says that two clear days must be given is a sessional Order which expired at the end of last session; and therefore the right hon. Gentleman is entitled to move this writ without any notice at all. I suppose it was out of excessive caution that he gave notice of it.

In reply to a further Question by Mr. Swift MacNeill,

*MR. SPEAKER pointed out that this matter was usually governed by a sessional Order, but as none had been passed in regard to it this session the right hon. Gentleman would be entitled to bring on the Motion without any notice. Sessional Orders of this kind were generally passed on receipt of a report from the Judges that they had reason to suppose that corrupt practices extensively prevailed.

SIR A. ACLAND-HOOD: I move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do issue his Warrant to the Clerk of the Crown to make out a New Writ for the electing of a Member to serve in this present Parliament for the Borough of Worcester, in the room of George Henry Williamson, Esq., whose election has been declared to be void."—(*Sir A. Acland-Hood.*)

*THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (SIR JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said he did not think he would be treating the House with sufficient respect if he did not point out the reasons which had influenced the Government not to resist this Motion. When the writ was moved at the close of last session, it was resisted on the ground that no sufficient opportunity had been afforded to consider the charges which had been established against the electors of Worcester or to examine the evidence on which the charges rested. An adequate interval had now elapsed, and there remained two questions to be considered. In the first place, was the charge proved of sufficient gravity to warrant Parliament in inflicting by way of statute the penalty of temporary or permanent disfranchisement? In the second place, assuming that the House would not go to that length, ought the issue of the writ to be postponed until proceedings for investigating certain charges of the bribery had been concluded? The learned Commissioners found that there was a corrupt element in the city of Worcester, numbering some 500 electors, who seemed to be corruptible by a sort of hereditary proclivity and tradition. It was said that they would never vote without being bribed or treated, and the opinion had been expressed that no election could be held there without considerable bribery. The Commissioners also found that there had been systematic and organised corruption for a number of years in the constituency; that it was publicly rebuked in 1892 by Mr. Justice Wills, one of the election

Judges; and that the rebuke had been disregarded. They confirmed the suspicion of the learned Judge that corrupt practices had extensively prevailed during the recent election; they disfranchised some and refused a certificate of indemnity to others, leaving them liable to prosecution. This was a grave report, requiring grave consideration; and it would be within the competence of the House to make this constituency an example for the purpose of vindicating the law in regard to electoral purity, and pass some sentence of disfranchisement on the electorate. But there were considerations on the other side, the most powerful of them being that the area of corruption was comparatively small. Some 500 persons were involved in the censures of the Commissioners, and they were only a sixteenth of the constituency. Would they be justified in disfranchising an electorate of 8,000 because of the electoral offence of one-sixteenth of the number. Would not that seem too severe a penalty? It must be borne in mind also that the incrimination applied only to one political Party, and the disfranchisement would affect both Parties. The constituency had already received some punishment, and would receive more. A hundred electors had been disfranchised; the constituency had been left for nine months without representation, and the considerable costs of the inquiry had been cast upon the city funds. These facts to his mind outweighed the arguments in favour of disfranchisement. But it would be possible for the House to say that an election should not take place while the mind of the electorate was disturbed by prosecutions pending against voters. If the charges were serious and numerous, it would not be possible for an election to take place without the political issues being confused and obscured. It had been his duty to go through the evidence, and he had come to the conclusion that the number of cases which ought to be brought before the Court for further investigation did not exceed six, and that the amounts expended in bribery were not large. He could not, therefore, feel that it would be right to deprive the constituency of its electoral rights because some half-dozen prosecutions for bribery were pending. He was fortified in this conclusion by the consideration that, if these prosecutions should be instituted, they could not be determined until the month of July next, because they could only be tried by a Judge of Assize sitting at Worcester. Under these circumstances, indirectly therefore, they would be disfranchising for a period of six months longer by withholding the issue of a writ until after these proceedings had been determined. The alternative suggestion practically involved a sentence of disfranchisement for six months, which, he confessed, he did not think would be justified. Those were the reasons which had led the Government to the conclusion that this was not a case in which they would be justified in resisting this Motion, and, if the House accepted his opinion, he trusted they would come to the same conclusion.

*MR. HEMMERDE (East Denbighshire) said he could not, as one who had taken interest in this question in more than one part of the country, let the occasion pass without making some protest against the course the Government proposed to take. He had fought two elections in corrupt boroughs and had acted as counsel in the Worcester election petition. He spoke in the matter, therefore, with first-hand knowledge. He had seen witness after witness troop into the box and confess bribery in the calm, insolent manner of men who had been accustomed to be bribed for thirty or forty years. The Attorney General had said that bribery had taken place only on one side. If that were so, then it was about the first time in the history of the city. It had been admitted that bribery had taken place year after year on both sides, and some years ago one of the Judges of the High Court denounced in the strongest terms a political organisation in Worcester, the National Conservative League. Although this High Court Judge had said that this body was most improper in its methods and a danger to the Party it supported, yet it went on unchecked, and was as flourishing as before. The League seemed to confine for the most part its operations to Worcestershire. Nothing was done to check it by the Conservative Party and it continued its operations up to and almost through the last election. It was not possible to suppose that just those few people who were found out as being guilty of bribery were the only people who committed the offence. He would tell the House what he saw personally in another town, in order that they might deduce what happened in Worcester. They might remember that two or three years before the last general election, an election petition was brought forward in Shrewsbury, and there, in one ward of the town, it was found that 50 per cent. of the people had been bribed; they went into the box and admitted it. He had evidence before him from five different wards in the town, and he did not believe that the ward from which the petition emanated was the worst. Furthermore, however, he did not believe the corruption in Shrewsbury was worse than that in Worcester. There was evidence given that about 2,000 persons had probably been bribed at Worcester, and from inquiries he had made personally, and from the evidence, he was convinced that the area of bribery was much larger than that found by the Commissioners. Even if it were not, surely it was large enough as it stood? They heard last sessions somewhat passionate protests from the opposite benches against the action the Government then took, but if the Opposition wished to dissociate themselves from the bribery which had taken place in such a case as the one before them, they might themselves endorse the opinion implied if not expressed both by the Commissioners and the Judges at Worcester, that Mr. Harben fairly won the seat, and let him occupy it. A gross attempt had been made which might have the effect of postponing, for perhaps many years, a brilliant young man's career, yet no word had been spoken by the other side. Not one word of protest had been spoken of the convivial meetings of the National League, nor did Mr. Williamson say a word of protest against the bribery which was rife in the town. The House was jealous of the purity of elections, and he asked hon. Members to consider that what had come to light in this particular case should be made an object lesson. He wished the Government would take their courage in both hands and forbid the indirect bribery which went on from day to day in the form of subscriptions, etc. This indirect bribery led to direct bribery by encouraging everyone to believe that his vote had some money value, and he wished to protest as one who had seen something of this bribery and had done his best to put his foot down. He earnestly asked the House whether they would be justified in allowing an election to take place in which the sole question would be who was responsible for the petition and who had stopped the bribery that had gone on for years. It would not be a fair election. There would be an enormous prejudice against the people who had been behind the petition and the candidate who had had the pluck to bring it.

*MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said he knew of the influence of bribery in towns in America, and he was glad that a young hon. Member of the House had had the courage to come forward and appeal for purity at elections. This was not a question of Party. He regretted that the hon. Member had imported into the discussion a personal note, but considering his close connection with the matter it was hardly to be avoided. His utterances were straightforward, however, and he (Mr. Taylor) begged to thank him for them. He knew the city of Philadelphia very well [laughter]. Hon. Members might laugh but the bribery in that city was a very serious thing. The magisterial and police elements were largely controlled by the corrupt and criminal classes. He regretted to say that the condition in that great city was not uncommon among the cities of America. The average citizen had been indifferent to the character of the elections and did not take the trouble to insist upon purity. He would not for a single moment hold the Conservative Party as a whole guilty in the matter of corruption. He did not believe that the opposite Party wished for corruption any more than they on the Ministerial side did. He was certain that the House represented the best feeling in the country whatever Party was in power, but he hoped that the Government would remember what the result of the condoning corruption would he. They must ignore any question of Party in the matter of stamping out bribery. He was only sorry that the matter had taken a Party complexion. There was great local feeling in Worcester against the candidate of the Party which had appealed, and they, as the guardians of the public, ought to throw in their lot with those who had attempted to put down bribery. If the House divided he would vote against the granting of the writ, but at the same time he would be sorry to have to vote against the Government. He had always supported the Government in and out of season, but none the less he cared far more for the purity of elections than for the claims of any Party.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said that as far as he was concerned he attached as much importance to the purity of elections as any Member on the other side of the House. The reason he rose at all was because the hon. Member for East Derbyshire had told them that he had acted as counsel in the Worcester Election Petition. He (the noble Lord) had always understood that it was not generally regarded as desirable that a gentleman should speak on a case in which he had acted as counsel, and he could not help thinking that what had just taken place showed the undesirability of the practice. They had had a statement by the Government, who, at any rate, must be impartial in view of the decision to which they had come, because it was a decision which was certainly not biassed by any political consideration. The Government were met by an hon Member who was unable to take a judicial view of this question from the very fact that he had been engaged as counsel for one side at the trial of the petition. That hon. Member had made a very passionate speech, but he thought it would be very unfortunate if the House allowed itself to be persuaded by the observations of an hon. Member labouring under the disadvantage he had mentioned, instead of accepting the view of the Government.

*SIR C. HILL (Shrewsbury) said the hon. Member for East Denbighshire had made a speech which was very familiar in the borough which he had the honour to represent. It was quite true, he believed, that some years ago the hon. Member was counsel in connection with an election case in which certain persons who were now his constituents had offended technically against the law. They all knew that the hon. Member for East Denbighshire had gone from Shrewsbury to Worcester and from one town to another in search of the smallest technical breach of the law that could be found in regard to the bribery question. It was a mania which possessed the hon. Gentleman. The hon. Member did him the honour of suggesting that his own election could have been upset if it had not been for the expense. He and his friends were not afraid of these threats, for they found that the hon. Gentleman was not so certain of his facts as to justify a petition. He wished, however, to enter his protest against the association of the borough of Shrewsbury in any way whatever with any constituency which was tainted with or even accused of bribery.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan) said that when he saw the record from England of the election results and when he found that one stronghold of Conservatism after another was knocked over, he thought it required some explanation. They had got the explanation. Some section of their Party most unfortunately had touched the unclean thing. If the Party did not take a lesson from it they would have another disaster.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham) asked why only 100 were to be disfranchised when 500 had been found guilty.

MR. BYLES (Salford, N.) asked whether the Government Whips would be put on in the coming division. He thought the question should be left open to the decision of the House.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness) said he should like to offer one word of sympathy to the Attorney-General, who once more found himself in the unfortunate position of being thrown over by his own Party. He trusted that after all there might be some little backbone left in the Government and that they would put on their own Whips.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): The hon. Gentleman who has just addressed us is I think a comparatively inexperienced Member of the House——

MR. STANLEY WILSON: I have been here six years.

MR. ASQUITH: Then it is all the more inexcusable that he should make that suggestion. This is a Motion made from the front Opposition Bench. The Government have nothing whatever to do with it. It is a matter entirely for the House of Commons to decide. My hon. and learned friend most properly and in accordance with practice has given the advice which the House is entitled to expect from a law officer of the Crown when a matter of this kind comes before it. I entirely associate myself with everything my hon. and learned friend has said. The advice he gave to the House was given after consultation with the Prime Minister, and although it is not a question of putting on the Government Whips, and although every man has perfect freedom to vote exactly as he pleases, I shall, speaking for myself, certainly vote for the Motion.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 190; Noes, 192. (Division List No. 2.)

AYES.

Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lon.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barnes, G. N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romford
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bottomley, Horatio
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Carson, Rt. Hn. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cox, Harold
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Crombie, John William
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V (Hants, W.)
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Gordon, Sir W. Evans (T'r Ham.
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardie, J. Keir- (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Haworth, Arthur A.
Helmsley, Viscount
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Idris, T. H. W.
Kearley, Hudson E.
Keswick, William
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants. Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E.C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
O'Grady, J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Partington, Oswald
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rees, J. D.
Remnant, James Farquharson
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpton
Rickett, J. Compton
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Toulmin, George
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Whitbread, Howard
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Barker, John
Barlow, John Emmott (Somerset
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J T (Cheshire
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cogan, Denis J.
Cooper, G. J.
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Gov'n
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Field, William
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Fullerton, Hugh
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harrington, Timothy
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Joyce, Michael
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Langley, Batty
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
Mallet, Charles E.
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Murphy, John
Nicholls, George
Norman, Sir Henry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Doherty, Philip
O'Dowd, John
O'Hare, Patrick
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
O'Shee, James John
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Perks, Robert William
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Renton, Major Leslie
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Sears, J. E.
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Steadman, W. C.

Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Tomkinson, James
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (S'thampton
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C. H. W. (Hull, W.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Theodore Taylor and Mr. Maddison.

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Main Question [12th February].

"That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.), in moving an Amendment dealing with the question of the evicted tenants in Ireland, said that on behalf of the Irish Party it was necessary once more to bring before the attention of the House and the Government the Irish land question. On this occasion they confined themselves to one portion of the question. In the numbers that it affected it was relatively a small matter; but in its importance, as regarded the feeling which it had evoked, it was of vital moment to the country. When the Land Act of 1903 was passing through Parliament, pledges of the most express and distinct character were given by the responsible Minister in this House that sufficient power was conferred by that Bill upon its administrators to reinstate the evicted tenants in Ireland. It was scarcely necessary that he should travel back on the history of the agrarian struggle in Ireland. During that struggle there was much bitterness and much suffering. One class—those for whom they spoke that day—were the greatest sufferers of all; and whatever bitterness might have been aroused in regard to the sacrifices and the struggles which they made was brought to a termination by the agreement come to by all parts of the House that their reinstatement must be a condition of the settlement of the land question. When the Act of 1903 was introduced the defects of the measure in regard to this part of the settlement of the land question were pointed out by Nationalist Members; but that opinion was not regarded, although experience since had borne out the opinion that that Act would not prove an absolutely final settlement of the land question in Ireland. And why? There was an absence of compulsion on those refractory landlords who refused voluntarily to obey the will of Parliament. And the worst of these landlords were those on whose estates evictions had taken place during the agrarian struggle. He need only refer to the struggle which took place last winter and to the fact that when an hon. Member introduced a Bill for the compulsory expropriation of one of those landlords—a Bill which met with a sympathetic reception from all parts of the House—it became perfectly manifest to everybody who had the slightest knowledge of the land question in Ireland, that no law could be operative in regard to Lord Clanricarde and men of his class, unless it contained the element of compulsion. In 1903 the Leader of the Irish Party expressly asked the then Irish Secretary, the right hon. Member for Dover, whether he would pledge himself that the Bill of that year, as it then stood, contained provisions which would bring about the reinstatement of the evicted tenants, and the answer was strongly in the affirmative. Upon that pledge, the Irish Party let the Irish Land Bill of 1903 become the law of the land. It was maintained by everyone who had any recollection of what took place in the

House during the passage of that measure that it never could have become law if the Irish Party had said one word against it; what made it possible for such a large sum of money to be voted for land settlement in Ireland was that Irish opinion was unanimous in favour of it. If the Irish Party had opposed it, the supporters of the Government would not have backed it; and the Irish Party backed the Government on the assumption that the pledge of the Chief Secretary for Ireland would be fulfilled. The Act had been in existence now for three and a half years, and it was not until a year ago that the slightest effort towards progress had been made in regard to the restoration of evicted tenants. Immediately the Bill became law regulations of a private character were made by the Government of the day binding the Commissioners in such a manner as to make the clause in the Act of 1903 absolutely inoperative. Those regulations of a private character, made by the Chief Secretary of the day, were afterwards by his successor, the right hon. Member for South Dublin, made into regulations of a public character, which, so far as they understood, were precisely the same. These regulations had prevented the Estates Commissioners, however willing they might be, from doing anything in regard to this problem, and it was only when the present Government came into office or sometime after that these regulations were revoked and new ones substituted. It was then and only then that even inquiry into this matter began to take place. The subject had been inquired into over and over again. When the present Secretary of State for India was Chief Secretary for Ireland he appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into it, and time after time it had been the subject of debate and of sympathetic reference from the Ministerial Bench and from all quarters of the House. But, even a year ago when the present Government set inquiry upon foot, the Commissioners were handicapped by the small staff which was placed at their disposal. He was told that this was due to the Treasury, but whether it was the fault of the Treasury or of the Irish Government or of the Estates Commissioners, one thing was certain, and that was that inquiry was necessarily slow on account of smallness of staff. The question was raised last October on the Motion of his hon. friend the Member for Waterford, and then figures were produced to show that progress was very slow. These figures had been somewhat altered by the lapse of time, and that day the Chief Secretary had stated in answer to a question the figures as they stood at the present time. Roughly, 6,600 applications had been received by the Estates Commissioners from persons requesting to be reinstated on the ground that they were evicted tenants. Half of this number had been so far inquired into, and 1,300 had been excluded on various grounds. Supposing in the investigation of the remaining half an equal number should be excluded it would mean the exclusion of 2,600, and that would leave the total of genuine cases of evicted tenants to be dealt with standing at something like 4,000. How many had been reinstated after a lapse of nearly three years? Only 600. It was clear to anybody having the slightest idea of Irish feeling upon the subject that it was a matter of a most urgent character, and if the rate of progress was not greatly accelerated it would be at least ten years before the whole of these 4,000 cases could be settled. But an important thing to be considered in connection with the cases already dealt with was that most of these 600 were the easiest cases to deal with, for they were cases in which the landlords were more or less willing for one reason or another—either for the monetary reason or because they were tired of the struggle, and so on—to reinstate their evicted tenants. In a few months that class of landlords would entirely disappear, and they would then be faced with a class of landlords who would not, under any circumstances, unless the law of land made them, permit their evicted tenants to be brought back. He did not know how the figures might stand at the present moment, but out of 1,200 cases examined up to last October, there were 444 cases in which the landlords absolutely refused to permit the inspectors of the Government to stand upon the land formerly occupied by evicted tenants, even to examine it. In cases like these, the

Act of 1903 might as well never have been passed. He did not think that the cause of the failure to reinstate these tenants was to be found in any unwillingness on the part of the Estates Commissioners, and he knew that it was not due to any want of money, because the Act of 1903 provided what was known as the Reserve Fund, consisting of £250,000. It was true that the fund was meant for other purposes as well as for the reinstating of evicted tenants, but that was the first and primary object of the fund, and it was only after it had fulfilled its purpose in that respect that the fund was intended by Parliament to be available for other purposes. It was estimated that a much less sum than £250,000 would settle the question. He thought the Mathew Commission estimated it at £100,000. That sum he did not think would be sufficient, but there was a good margin between it and £250,000. If it was true that the failure did not arise from unwillingness on the part of the Commissioners, or from any want of money, they were driven to seek some other explanation of the difficulty, and the explanation they found was the failure of the law to provide means of compelling those landlords who were unwilling to fulfil the will of Parliament to carry it out. The Clanricarde case was referred to by the Leader of the Opposition last December as their classic case, but there were a good many similar to Clanricarde in Ireland. The 444 of the little over 1,000 cases investigated, were not all on the Clanricarde property, but the Clanricarde case was a notable type of a far larger number of landlords in Ireland. It was an extreme type no doubt, but when they described the Clanricarde case, they described very many other cases which existed. What was the Clanricarde case? On that estate a very large number of tenants were evicted during the agrarian struggle by the Marquess of Clanricarde; many of them were left in the district; many of them were still living on the verge of farms which were in the hands of people known as "planters," but who were popularly called "grabbers." Some of these farms were vacant; the landlord never came near the place, but through his agent ruled the estate from London as autocratically as any despot upon a throne. Could there be peace and content in that district so long as a large number of discontented and rightly discontented people were hovering about in it? What good was the law of 1903 to the tenants on the Clanricarde estate? Neither the tenants who occupied the land nor the tenants who were evicted from it could receive the slightest benefit from the Act in the lifetime of the present landlord. The will of Parliament was absolutely set at defiance by him, and which was going to prevail in the County of Galway? Was it the will of the Marquess o Clanricarde or the will of King, Lords, and Commons? The Nationalist Members assured the Government in 1903 that the Act could not settle the evicted tenants nor indeed other portions of the Irish land question because of the absence of compulsion or even the elements of compulsion, and they now three and a half years afterwards assured another Government and a different House of Commons that the prophecy which they then made had been more than fulfilled, and that it was necessary to grapple at once with at least this portion of the land question in order to bring something like contentment to a large portion of the country. The tenants of Ireland generally felt that they were under a deep and lasting obligation to the evicted tenants, and in many cases the tenants had refused and had been advised by Nationalist Members to refuse to enter into negotiations with their landlords for purchase except on the express condition that evicted tenants should be reinstated. Under these circumstances, not merely the evicted tenants but a large portion of the occupying tenants of Ireland were being and would be excluded from the operation of the Act until compulsion was brought to bear upon the landlords. For these reasons they asked the present Chief Secretary, who was listening for the first time in his official capacity to a debate on a purely Irish social question, to give this matter his earnest and immediate attention, because they could assure him that no act of administration upon his part would be sufficient to accomplish the purpose they all had in view, but it would be necessary for him during this session, if he desired to accomplish a settlement of this problem, to deal with it by legislation. Only this morning he had received a letter from a constituent, a Mr. Jones, who was an evicted tenant. The tenants on the estate from which he had been evicted made up their minds they would not purchase from their landlord unless the grabber gave up the holding and Mr. Jones was reinstated. The grabber expressed his readiness to do so if his interest was bought out, which was not regarded as unreasonable. The agreements were entered into on that condition, and the matter came before the Estates Commissioners. He was not well acquainted with the facts, but if he read the letter aright the sale of this estate was sanctioned by the Commissioners before any agreement was come to with the grabber as to price, and now the grabber was retaining the holding. He thought that was a matter that might be dealt with administratively. The Estates Commissioners, he thought, should be very careful how they gave a permanent position to grabbers, when they were willing to surrender their holdings on terms. There were, of course, cases in which the tenants and the landlords would not consent to reinstate evicted tenants, and in those cases the Estates Commissioners ought to purchase untenanted lands in the district. He admitted that there was great difficulty in regard to the question of untenanted lands even where the landlord was willing to sell, and this was a very important part of the evicted tenants' case, because there were cases where the tenants could not get back to their holdings, and in those cases the attention of the Government and the law ought to be carried out as soon as possible, so as to provide them with holdings elsewhere. The landlords were in many cases willing and anxious to sell, but they were also anxious to get their money at once. In numerous cases three years elapsed before the money was paid for the land, and the result was that landlords would not enter into negotiations. In other cases the landlords put their land up to auction, but for reasons that he was not able to discover, neither the Estates Commissioners nor the Congested Districts Board would bid at public auctions, and the land was lost to the evicted tenants and the purposes of the Land Act of 1903. He suggested that when the Chief Secretary took this matter into consideration and brought in a Bill to deal with it, he should give the Estates Commissioners some power of pre-emption over these lands, so that when they were put up for sale they should not pass away from the purposes that Parliament intended. There was an administrative aspect of the question with regard to giving priority to evicted tenants where untenanted land came into the market—especially if the land was of a character suitable for the reinstatement of evicted tenants. Such priority should be of an official character right through. At the moment land was offered for sale an inspector should be sent to value it, and an offer should be made immediately to the landlords, and every effort made to obtain the land. The figures read by the Chief Secretary earlier in the afternoon were sufficient proof of the failure of the Land Act of 1903 in this respect. There were between 4,000 and 5,000 cases to be dealt with, and 6,600 applications had been received by the Estates Commissioners, more than half of which had yet to be considered. In the meantime there were 1,600 cases which had been considered still to be disposed of, and only 600 cases had been dealt with by the reinstatement of the evicted tenants. That meant that if the rate of progress was not accelerated it would be three years before those 600 cases could be finally settled. He therefore begged the right hon. Gentleman to put every possible pressure on all concerned to bring the matter to as speedy a termination as possible, because this matter appealed to the deepest feelings of the Irish people, and kept open one of the sores of Irish social life. It was a question the right hon. Gentleman should set himself to remedy as quickly as possible. They complained of the rate of progress. Since the debate in last October only 102 tenants had been reinstated, and though they were glad to see during the last four months 100 cases of reinstatement, yet at the rate of progress which had hitherto obtained only 300 a year could be reinstated, and that was not sufficient to satisfy the hopes held out to Irish representatives in this House in 1903. It was not sufficient to give real cheer and courage to men who for a score of years had been lying out of their homes;

who had been evicted in the struggle which had taken place for the emancipation of their class and the maintenance of a policy the principle of which had now received the sanction of this House. For these reasons the Amendment which it was his privilege to move on behalf of the Irish Party was more than justified. He had established the fact that the Act of 1903 had been a failure in this respect. It must also be admitted that the existence of these sores was necessarily a danger to the peace and prosperity of Ireland, and their continuance would make more difficult the already sufficiently difficult task which the right hon. Gentleman had undertaken. There was, however, one way in which it might be made less difficult, and that was for the right hon. Gentleman to join the Irish representatives and try to cure these sores, and then he would bring some cheer to these poor creatures who had been suffering for so many years. He begged to move.

*MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.), in seconding the Amendment, said he had not that intimate knowledge of the circumstances of particular districts which many of his colleagues possessed, but he could at least show to the House a fact which was of some importance. This was not merely a local but a national question. It might be asked, who were these evicted tenants, how came it that they stood where they did, and why was it that they were serving them during the first few days of the session, by using in their behalf the only Amendment which they would move to the Address. In the picturesque language of the people of Ireland, these evicted tenants had come to be known as the "wounded soldiers" of the land war. Every cause had its martyrs, some their saints, but all their martyrs. These men were the martyrs of the social revolution which had taken place in Ireland during the nineteenth century. They were their comrades, the men they could not leave on the battle-field. The land war in which they fell commenced with the foundation of the Land League in the black, bitter winter of 1879. He thought he was right in saying that the Land League itself was founded as an answer to the evictions. Its first and important object was to afford some protection to the combination of tenants, who, through the failure of the crops in that disastrous year, were menaced with eviction. Its programme was summed up in the phrase—"Ireland for the Irish and the land for the people." The second of these objects was now approved by all political Parties. It had been included in Acts of Parliament, consented to by both sides in that House. The other part of the programme was still subject to misrepresentations, just as "Ireland for the Irish" might be regarded as synonymous with red ruin and the breaking of laws, so "the land for the people" (now regarded as just), was denounced as robbery, violence, and spoliation. It consequently followed that every step in the reform of the land laws had been met with most bitter opposition. They had, however, managed to convince the Chief Secretary of that day, Mr. Forster, that something must be done, and done quickly, to stop evictions in Ireland. Mr. Forster, in 1880, if he remembered aright, brought in a Bill to provide compensation for disturbance. That Bill, like so many other amelioratory measures, met its fate at the other end of the corridor. The Government of that day saw that something more ought to be done, and Mr. Gladstone introduced the Land Act of 1881. That Act had been the object of much undue censure, but, whatever its merits or demerits, he thought there could be little doubt that probably it was the best Act which at that day could be passed. It was quite certain, however, that it had in it certain grave defects and certain grave omissions. It had, in the first place, the grave omission that it excluded altogether from its provisions great classes of tenants, notably the leaseholders. Perhaps the gravest among its defects was that there was no provision by which any readjustment could be made during a period of fifteen years. What happened? When the bad years came there were no means of dealing with the situation—a situation very like that of 1879, when they had the bitter struggle in the Plan of Campaign. It was undoubtedly the fact that many of the men who suffered eviction in those years, under the Plan of Campaign, were people of whom it used often to be said that they could, but would not, pay their rent. That, certainly, was quite true. He would doubtless be regarded as a person of very perverted morality by hon. Gentlemen above the Gangway when he said that to his mind the refusal by these men was entirely honourable to them. For what did it mean ? It meant that they who were strong determined to stand by the weak. They refused to go back upon their comrades. They had refused to desert the weak, and the mass of the Irish people in their turn refused to this hour to desert them. Over and over again, during the struggle on various estates offers were made to the tenants, subject to one condition. But it was one which the tenants could not accept, because it was a condition which implied vengeance upon the evicted tenants. What they refused then they refused still. His hon. friend had stated truly that on every estate where there had been evicted tenants it was being made a condition precedent to the acceptance of any terms of purchase, that the evicted tenants should be put back in their own farms, or that suitable farms should be provided for them. Unfortunate as was the deadlock, he was proud of his fellow countrymen that it should be so. What was the present position ? There was a debate on this subject on the 29th October last year, and the Chief Secretary of that day, in dealing with the difficulties which the Estates Commissioners had to face, appealed to the House to allow time and patience to have their effect. Mr. Bryce at that time had been in office very little over nine months, and since then three or four months had passed. It seemed to him eminently characteristic of the method under which Irish affairs were administered that the Minister who then appealed to them for time and patience should already, only a year since he took up the reins of office, have quitted the Irish Office, and be now on his way across the Atlantic. Perhaps he might be permitted to say that Mr. Bryce certainly carried with him the affection and goodwill of Ireland, and they hoped he would have a prosperous voyage, and that the Atlantic would be kinder to him than St. George's Channel appeared to have been to the right hon. Gentleman the new Chief Secretary. It was eminently characteristic of Irish government that they should now, after three months, when they came to raise this question again, be faced by another Chief Secretary, who perhaps would make an appeal once more, for time and patience, until he, in turn, had mastered some of the intricacies and difficulties of the position. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to give them a more substantial diet to digest than that. From his speech of yesterday he gathered that the right hon. Gentleman had a pretty taste for sepulchral monuments. He could not help fancying, after hearing the right hon. Gentleman yesterday, that the shadow of the cypress of some suburban cemetery had fallen across him as he prepared that delightful speech, and that, being in such a place, his mind turned naturally enough to thoughts of mortality, and he had a vision of his bones, as he said, being laid to rest beside that great monument which covered the official remains of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover. But, in all seriousness, the right hon. Gentleman had no need of any borrowed monument. They all hoped, believed, and expected, that his monument would be the greatest which any Chief Secretary could have, the monument of the restored Parliament House of the Kingdom of Ireland. But if those hopes should prove vain, it was still in his power to build himself a more modest but yet a noble monument. Let him live in the memory of Ireland as the man who restored the evicted tenants. Then he would have not one, but many monuments. They all hoped, however, that the right hon. Gentleman had before him many years of useful life. He hoped and prayed that the right hon. Gentleman might see with his own eyes many thousands of homes which his labours had caused to be rebuilt, that within his nostrils there might be the incense of many a turf fire which his hand had helped to light, and that in his ears there might be the acclamations of a long-suffering and grateful people.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words 'And we humbly represent to Your Majesty that the promises made and the expectations held out in the year 1903 by Your Majesty's then Government to tenants evicted from their holdings in Ireland during the agrarian troubles in that country have not been fulfilled; that numbers of these unhappy families are still homeless and suffering extreme distress; that this condition of things has given rise to an increasing feeling of bitterness and disappointment; that it is discreditable to English rule in Ireland and dangerous to the public peace, and demands the immediate attention of the Government, with a view to applying a speedy and effectual remedy, by conferring on the Estates Commissioners such powers as will make it possible for them to reinstate the evicted tenants without further delay.'"—(*Mr. Hayden.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said he rose for the purpose of supporting with all the earnestness he could command the Amendment which had just been put from the Chair. They lived in a time when there were many new and fresh panaceas brought forward on all sides for the regeneration of Ireland—some of them excellent, some of them extremely silly, but one and all were based on a single foundation, and that was the planting of the peasantry of Ireland as a free people on the soil of the country. It was impossible to take any real step towards the uplifting and redemption of the Irish people until there had been lifted from their shoulders that burden which had bowed them down as serfs in their own land for so many years. In order that the House might understand the real importance and the intense urgency of the demand set forth in the Amendment it was absolutely necessary that he should say a few words on the history of the proceedings which had caused the existence of evicted tenants. The system of Irish landlordism, the most universally condemned by civilised people all over the world, was one which had to be overthrown before the Irish people could begin their progress towards a better state of things. What was that system, and what were its peculiar crimes and sins? It was a system which paralysed industry in Ireland, which degraded the character of the Irish people, which bred and created crime, and was the sole cause of disorder and trouble in that country. It was a system under which it was made legally possible for the rich man to rob the poor man systematically, and under cover of the law. Was there now in this House one single man who would maintain that that system could have been shaken or that any impression could have been made upon it simply by argument in this House, or by speeches made elsewhere? Was it not now well known and established that that system never could have been shaken, not to say abolished, if it had not been for the bitter struggle lasting over a generation? Landlordism and its influence upon the homes of the Irish people and the fortunes of their race had been more disastrous and more terrible than many great wars and armies in the field, and it had left in the social life of Ireland traces so horrible and bitter that it would take many a long year to wipe them away. He had said those few words about the well-known history of landlordism and the Irish land system in order to endeavour to make hon. Members understand and realise the extent to which this question of the evicted tenants was a national question in Ireland, and how deep and universal was the feeling throughout Ireland that these men must suffer no longer. Why was that so? In the long agrarian struggle in Ireland—and the youngest and most inexperienced Member of this House knew there had been a long and a bitter agrarian struggle in Ireland—things had been done on both sides which they all desired to-day to see forgotten, and the memory of which they desired to see obliterated. It was impossible—and the history of mankind proved it—to work out any great agrarian revolution in any country, much less a country held down by another strange and foreign country like Ireland was by England, without much trouble and disorder, bitterness and suffering. That revolution had been worked out nearly to its conclusion. And he would like to press home the fact that this House by a long series of Acts commencing in 1870 and ending in 1903 had confessed, and, by putting them upon the Statute book, had recognised the blunder and, he might almost say, crime it committed in maintaining the Irish land system. The House heard the other day some talk about the number and cost of the Irish police. It cost £1,400,000 to police the most crimeless nation in Europe or upon the face of the civilised world. It cost more than double the police of any other nation of similar size in the world. Why? Because of Irish landlordism and of that alone. If the work of the abolition of Irish landlordism was brought to a happy termination they could without the slightest risk to life or property reduce the Irish police force to one-half and save £700,000 a year for the education of the people. This was only one of the injuries which had been inflicted upon Ireland by the existing system, but it was a terrible illustration; £700,000 could be saved from being spent upon a great armed police force to maintain a system which was destroying the Irish people and strangling the wealth and industry of the nation. Why did he dwell upon these things? Because to the mind of the people of Ireland the men who by their sacrifices had done more than Parliament and the statesmen of England to overthrow this awful system and lift this burden from the necks of the people of Ireland, were these very evicted tenants. And what would they say as Englishmen, and what would be said by their brethren in America, Australia, and in Ireland, if they were to abandon these men when by tens of thousands the peasants of Ireland were being planted upon the soil? What would be said if these men who were cast upon the roadside in the course of that struggle, were left in the road to starve and perish while the nation was marching on? This Parliament had confessed by a long series of Acts, culminating in the Act of 1903, that the Irish land system was iniquitous and should be put a stop to. They had justified the revolt of the nation against it, and they had incurred by that the duty of wiping out the sufferings of those who suffered by that war. That was not left to him to prove. They all remembered the debates on the Bill of 1903. That Bill differed in one important particular from all previous measures. It was introduced in consequence of and following upon an agreement between a large section of Irish landlords and a section of the Irish people, the first condition of which was that the implacable war of vengeance declared again and again by champions of the Irish landlords against the evicted tenants, and especially against the Plan of Campaign evicted tenants should be abandoned, and that those men should be restored to their homes, or to new homes on generous terms; and that was the special point in the scheme in order to wipe away as far as possible the black memories of the past. Did they on those Benches give no *quid pro quo* for that agreement? He thought they gave an enormous price for it. Had there ever before been a case where a landed gentry had been brought out on such terms? The case of Ireland was not the first instance of the buying out of a landlord class, for the same thing had been done in France and Prussia and other continental countries. But they might search the annals of all those countries and they would not be able to find a class which had ever been treated so generously as the landed gentry of Ireland. They consented to that agreement on one condition only, which was that these wounded soldiers of the land war, as they were then called, should be treated with generosity and put back into their old homes as speedily as possible with such grants as would enable them to face life again in a cheerful spirit. Had that been done, what would have been the state of Ireland to-day? It would have had an incalculable influence in smoothing away old passions, and it would have put an end to the bitter social war which had desolated Ireland for so many generations. He would tell the House how the Government of the day treated that part of the bargain. The moment the Act was passed all those provisions which were in the interests of the landlords were put into operation full steam ahead, and man after man sold his estates at enormous prices and on terms which brought them considerably more income than they ever derived from the land. As regarded the evicted tenants, instructions were issued to paralyse the Commissioners and so to keep the evicted tenants upon the roads. Why was that done? Because the evicted tenants were to be used as a lever to force up the price of land, and this was one of the cruellest acts of treachery on the part of one party to a bargain that he had ever known. In many districts the tenants on the estates had combined and resolved not to purchase their holdings until the evicted tenants were reinstated. The answer of the landlord to this was, "What price are you going to give? If you will pay twenty-four or twenty-five years purchase I will put back the evicted tenants." The action of many landlords was to keep the evicted tenants as hostages for the bargain like the brigands in Sicily had held men as ransom and threatened to send in their ears and noses unless a certain price was paid. That was the intention with which this part of the bargain had been violated, and the result was that up to the present day, after a lapse of more than three years since the Act was passed, the vast majority of the tenants were still on the roadside. In order to give hon. Members an idea of the methods that had been adopted and the progress made he would read one or two passages from the Report of the Estates Commissioners for 1905. It was the first Report of the Commissioners and dealt with the period from 1st November, 1903, to 31st December, 1904. The Report said that 4,275 evicted tenants had applied to be reinstated, and that the Estates Commissioners had proposed to employ a special establishment for the carrying on of the work of dealing with the applications. Considerable correspondence passed with the Treasury, and the result was that the Commissioners were instructed to confine their inquiries to estates actually before them for sale. That was treachery to the evicted tenants, to the Irish Members, and to the House of Commons itself, who were ready to agree to this act as they thought of "national appeasement," as it used to be called, by reason of the rosy prospects which were held out by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover that peace and contentment would reign from one end of the country to the other. What was the result? The Estates Commissioners, interpreting correctly the spirit of the Act, immediately sent in to the Treasury an application for a proper establishment to carry out this great work of restoring the evicted tenants, and the Treasury absolutely refused to give any staff whatever, and by that act alone they paralysed the whole work of restoring the evicted tenants, saying that they were only to restore them in so far as the ordinary staff of inspectors were at work on estates offered for sale. In other words, the Treasury handed over the evicted tenants as hostages to the landlords who were offering their estates for sale. They issued instructions to the Commissioners not to deal with tenants who were not before them in connection with estates offered for sale. The instructions were published afterwards by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, and they brought the work of reinstatement absolutely to a standstill. That was the condition of things until the general election took place. It was thought that then at last they were within sight of the promised land, and they immediately took steps to impress upon Mr. Bryce, the Chief Secretary, the position of affairs long before the question was raised in Parliament. His hon. friend the Member for Waterford and himself waited upon the right hon. Gentleman and explained the necessity for going ahead with this work. What happened? The right hon. Gentleman immediately took steps to withdraw the regulations issued by one of his predecessors, and he issued another series of regulations to which, with two or three exceptions, he had no fault to find, which set free the hands of the Commissioners so far as the law made it possible to go on with this work. Then in came again their old friend the Treasury. Mr. Bryce, who was now on his way to Washington, issued these regulations in February last, but they could not be put in force until a staff was available. The Estates Commissioners, with the consent and approval of the Irish Government, applied to the Treasury for an increase of staff, and would it be believed that, even under the present Government, the Treasury maintained its blockade obstinately and resolutely, and only six men were allowed although a much larger number had been applied for. As showing what the Irish people had to suffer under the obstructive machinery of the Government Departments with which they had to deal, it appeared, from an Answer given to a Question on 20th December last,† that it took this strong Government another twelve months to get twelve additional inspectors to carry out this work in Ireland. It was only in December last that these inspectors began work which ought to have been commenced three years ago. The total number of applications up to the 5th instant were 6,608, and of these only 3,627 had yet been even inspected. It was plain that if the intention of Parliament had been carried out, if there had been real interest in the matter, the whole of these holdings would have been inspected years ago, or at all events certainly more than a year ago. But they were now informed that the Government only hoped that the work of inspection would be completed by the month of May. That brought him down to the obstacles which had been placed in the way by the former Irish Government, and by the Treasury since the present Government came into office, and which had blocked the work of restoring the evicted tenants. Let him say before he passed from that subject that while he understood that the majority of the inspectors were sympathetic and did the work fairly well, some were, according to all accounts, landlords' men, ex-agents and gentlemen who were engaged in the war against the tenants. He could not imagine an act of greater cruelty than to send down to this work of reinstatement men who had been aiders and partisans of the enemy—of the landlords—who had driven the tenants from their homes only yesterday. He became aware of a case to which he must call the attention of the right hon. Gentleman privately. It was the case of a man going round pretending to reinstate the tenants but really putting such high values upon derelict and desolate evicted farms as would make the reinstatement of the tenants in them an absolute mockery. He would privately bring the matter before the Chief Secretary, and he appealed to him only to send down for this work men who were really sincere and friendly, who were in sympathy with the tenants and desired to carry out the work they were intended to perform. Let them turn to the figures given to-day by the Chief Secretary. There were 3,627 holdings which had been inspected, about one-half of the whole. The total number restored was 644, and there remained 1,636 cases passed by the inspectors as genuine which had not been inspected and in which the tenants had not been restored. Would hon. Members put themselves in the position of these people and endeavour to realise their feelings when they saw their neighbours all round them reaping the reward of the suffering and sacrifices of evicted tenants who were left still by the roadside with hardly a shelter over their heads and sick with hope long deferred? They had heard to-day allusion made to the classic case of Lord Clanricarde. Would the House bear with him while he recalled one or two cases? In the year 1886 some of them went down to that estate; it was in a state of disturbance. They had been charged frequently with having incited to assassination and outrage. It was not an easy thing to go there. There had been nine murders within six years, and not one man had been brought to justice in connection with them. The late agent had been shot on the public road, going home on a Sunday from service, when his wife was sitting on the car beside him. The district had been for years in a state of confusion and disturbance, and was honeycombed with secret societies—societies which had been the only protection the people had against Lord Clanricarde, who sat in his lodging in London drawing an enormous revenue from the estate and keeping for nearly thirty years the whole district in a state of turmoil and disturbance. They went down to offer to the people another plan by which they could relieve themselves of this awful incubus. The older Members of the House would remember what were known as the Clanricarde evictions. When Lord St. Aldwyn was Chief Secretary he was compelled to send down an army in connection with those evictions, although he had entreated Lord Clanricarde to spare his own Party that necessity. He remembered when he went down there seeing a stern-looking old man, who, he learned afterwards, had been one of the chief leaders in the secret societies in the south of Galway. He had been evicted from his house. It was a pretty little house, built by his own hands. There were roses round the porch and a little garden in front—a rare thing in an Irish cabin. The old man, with tears in his eyes, turned to him and said, "Ah! Mr. Dillon, I do not know whether you are right and whether the new methods may not be better, but I still believe in the old plan." This man died under circumstances which it was impossible to describe, on the roadside; and it was only last week that he (Mr. Dillon) received from his daughter a letter asking him to make a contribution towards the expense of burying her mother who had just died. Neither father nor mother had ever again entered that home, the work of the father's own hands. Was it not a wonder that on that Clanricarde estate from the day that they raised the banner of the Plan of Campaign no murder had been committed and no serious crime recorded? That was a thing to be proud of. But what the gentlemen of England, the Gentlemen of the House of Commons, had to think of were the 120 families who were homeless on the Clanricarde estate to-day. What answer could they have given to that old man if they had been in his place? And now, when peace reigned, when combination had taken the place of outrage, those 120 families who were evicted from their homes by the Marquess of Clanricarde were still on the roadside, as they had been for twenty years—many of them living in huts erected for them by their neighbours or from public funds, the rain coming down on them through broken roofs, and dozens of them dying from cold, fever, and consumption. Dozens more had died during those twenty years from the same privations and diseases. This right hon. Gentleman, this noble Marquess, had defied the will of Parliament; he rejoiced in defying and defeating it. He warned the Chief Secretary that one of the greatest desires of the noble Marquess was to compel him to bring down a large force of armed police to that part of the country again to terrorise those evicted tenants. He remembered an expression made use of by the then Prime Minister during the South African War on an occasion when some man in Stratford-on-Avon made a speech in favour of the Boers and a mob arose, attacked that man's house, smashed his furniture, and threw the fragments into the street. The case was brought up in the House and several Members used strong language about the police not having protected this man. But what did the Prime Minister say? He said—

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1732.

> "I object to these proceedings, but I must be allowed to say that there are occasions when there are limits to human endurance and human patience."

If the limits of human endurance had been reached when an Englishman indulged in the right of free speech, what were the limits of human endurance and patience when a man had been evicted from his own home, which he had created with his own hands, by an intolerable tyrant who was the curse of his country? He asked if it was tolerable that this Marquess, who delighted in defying and defeating the policy of Parliament, should be permitted to go on in this course and to have the whole forces of the Empire at his back to carry out his will? He appealed to the Chief Secretary, more especially in regard to the case of Lord Clanricarde, to deal boldly with him and not be forced to be the tool of this illustrious Member of the House of Lords. He did not know that the Radicals of England could do a greater service to their cause than to hold up the Peers of England as the champions of the Marquess of Clanricarde. What was the Government going to do in this matter? They had tried all methods of administration. They had tried conciliation with the landlords. According to the figures that had been given, 100 cases had been reinstated within the last three months—that was after the debate in October last. But even under the improved machinery devised by the present Government, in 440 of the cases reported the landlords had absolutely refused to allow the inspectors to go on the land. Mr. Bryce said, last October, that if progress was not soon made the mind of the Government was moving in the direction of compulsion. Well, progress had not be been made, and he did not see any immediate prospect of progress—that was to say, such progress as he and his colleagues could regard as satisfactory. They wanted to know whether the mind of the Government had moved any further in the direction of compulsion. When the Nationalist Party consented to the bonus, it was part of the bargain that evicted tenants should be promptly restored to their holdings or put on new holdings; not only that, but that they should be restored under conditions which would enable them to face the future with some prospect of success. What was the good of a man being restored to a holding which had gone to rack and ruin? It must be remembered that these men had been beggared, and to tell them to go back to farms without the means of working them was a cruel mockery. Unless a grant was given to a returning tenant, such as would enable him to face the future as an industrious and solvent tenant, nothing at all would be done for him. There had been only three of the evicted tenants on the Clanricarde Estate returned to their holdings. He had been informed that the annuities fixed upon these farms were entirely excessive, and the grants given to the tenants entirely insufficient for starting them in life. Sufficient grants were almost as important as restitution. There was no use in restoring a tenant unless he were put in possession of the means of facing the world again. Unless Parliament did that, their whole measure of peace would fail in its effect, He saw no difficulty in finding the money. A sum of £250,000 was set aside by the Act of 1903, mostly for the use of evicted tenants. In his opinion, it would take the greater part of that money to give the tenants adequate means to start. But after three and a half years the total sum spent on the reinstatement of evicted tenants was only £33,000, of which £27,000 were free grants. In those three and a half years the Government had only expended the interest of the sum set aside for dealing with these tenants. There was no financial difficulty in the matter. The money was there set aside for the purpose; it was Irish money, and not granted by the House at all. It was saved under the old Land Act and was called the Reserve Fund. It was true statesmanship to treat these people generously. If Parliament really wished to reap any fruit from this policy of generosity, as it had been called—of pure justice, as he called it—they must do the work quickly and generously. If it were so done, he could say to the Chief Secretary that he would have taken the most effective step possible to ease and smooth what would be a difficult task. If the right hon. Gentleman wished to impress the imagination of Ireland and get a strong hold of the affections of a people who were, to a considerable extent, influenced by their imagination and affection, he must take some bold step on the Clanricarde Estate and let the people of Ireland and of England know that the limits of human endurance and of human patience had been long passed by this man and that he would no longer be allowed to prostitute the name and forces of England by carrying out his nefarious and wicked tyrannies in Ireland.

*MR. GOOCH (Bath) said he thought the Irish Members had shown good judgment in taking the first opportunity of calling the attention of the House and country to this question of the evicted tenants, and to the tragic circumstances arising out of it. He thought the speeches delivered that afternoon justified that statement and must have impressed the Chief Secretary. If only that right hon. Gentleman were to respond fitly to the appeals made to him he would reap a rich harvest of gratitude in Ireland and would touch the heart of that great country which he was to rule. He thought, with the hon. Member for Donegal, that if the right hon. Gentleman was able to solve the problem which had been in evidence for the past twenty years, he would erect a monument to his memory, which, if smaller than that of 1903, would record his name in the grateful hearts of the people of Ireland. The debate of last October made it perfectly clear that the great intentions of the Act of 1903, passed in all sincerity by its promoters, had not been carried out in respect of one of the main objects which they set out to attain. In a very interesting book which came out last year, written by M. Béchaux on the land question in Ireland, the author advanced the opinion that as a Purchase Act it was almost an entire success, but regarded as a measure of social reconstruction if had been almost a failure. The task before the Chief Secretary was to make this greater object of social reconstruction as much a success as the actual transference of land had been. They had heard a great deal about the restrictions which were most unfortunately introduced into the work of the Estates Commissioners by the late Chief Secretary the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, and as the hon. Member for Mayo had reminded them that afternoon, one of the first things done last year was to relax these restrictions and free the hands of the Commissioners. A further step was that after a wrangle with the Treasury they had obtained a larger staff. Another important thing was that the Estates Commissioners had considered themselves at liberty to adopt the principle of priority in dealing with estates which involved the question of the evicted tenants. He knew that in the past that policy had been severely animadverted upon by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin, but realising as they all did that the reinstatement of the evicted tenants was necessary for the peace of Ireland he thought that it was right that that principle should be adopted. The fact that the progress had been so very small in regard to the evicted tenants seemed to him to make it clear that there were other steps to be taken before the problem came within sight of solution. As another hon. Member had told the Chief Secretary, the main difficulty was the want of land, and the most important step taken by Mr. Bryce in this connection was his utterance—he thought the first utterance of the kind by an Irish Chief Secretary—in which he hinted at the necessity of giving a compulsory power, and he ventured to suggest to the Chief Secretary not to go one worse, than his predecessor. That speech of Mr. Bryce had aroused hopes which he trusted would be fulfilled. It was quite clear that the question of getting more land was involved, because if they were to put the evicted tenant back on his own holding it was only fair that the Estates Commissioners should find a holding for the so-called "grabber." If there were circumstances under which he could not be got rid of, it was perfectly clear that the Estates Commissioners must find land for the evicted tenant. In any case it was obvious that other land would have to be found. It was, however, also clear that great difficulty arose because of the small amount of untenanted land in Ireland, but he did not think that anyone had a right to put that forward as an insuperable obstacle until they knew after inquiry by the Estates Commissioners how much untenanted land there was. The Amendment seemed to have another argument of great importance in its favour, and that was that if they were to solve the problem of the amelioration of the congested districts in the West they must give this power of compulsory purchase. The two classes most worthy of their sympathy and their help were, in the first place, the evicted tenants, and in the second place the half-a-million of people living on the Atlantic sea-board, and they could only help them by giving the Estates Commissioners in the one case, and the Congested Districts Board in the other, this power of compulsory purchase. He regarded the Act of 1903 as a great and magnificent measure, but like other measures it might have been a great deal better than it was, and it was perfectly clear that one of the main purposes of that Bill, the restoration of peace and the termination of the land war, could only be completed by something which would round off and perfect that legislation. Therefore, he appealed to Unionists not to run away at the mere sound of the word "compulsion," and to remember that these compulsory powers would not be exercised by a Liberal, Radical, or Home Rule Parliament, but in the one case by the Estates Commissioners, and in the other by the Congested Districts Board, who were not politicians at all, but civil servants.

*MR. O'SHEE (Waterford, W.) said that everyone acquainted with the case of the evicted tenants in Ireland had felt for a long time past that it was absolutely necessary to introduce compulsion. The proceedings of the inspectors who had been sent into the country before and since December had shown conclusively that no effective measures could be taken for the benefit of the evicted tenants without the introduction of compulsion. In his part of the country they had had experience for nine months of the action of one of these inspectors, and the result had been that in the whole county of Waterford, where there were some hundreds of evicted tenants, not a single one them had yet been restored to his holding through the action of the inspector. The procedure adopted by the inspector was to invite a Member of Parliament or some other public man to meet the evicted tenants with him at some hotel. The tenants came in one by one into the coffee room, and the inspector asked them the particulars of their cases, and after he had taken down the particulars he generally said he was sorry to say that he could do nothing for them, but he would report to the Estates Commissioners, who also could do nothing for them. He did not think it was clear, in a case where a landlord had lodged an originating application for an advance under the Purchase Acts, and then warned an inspector off the evicted farm, that legislation was necessary to deal with it. If the principle of priority had been in operation such cases would have been dealt with two or more years ago. In his district there was the case of a landlord, Sir John Nugent Humble, who had 2,000 acres of untenanted land on his hands, and he lodged an originating application, the tenants having come to a bargain with him that they would agree to give him twenty-four and a half years purchase—a high price even for that locality; but he warned a special inspector, appointed by Mr. Bryce, off his land, although the existing tenants signed the agreement he thought, for one reason, that they understood that the evicted tenants would be restored to their homes. Directly the application was made the estate came under the control of the Commissioners, and they ought to have had the right to send their inspector at once to the estate to report to them as to whether it should be deemed to be an estate under the Act at all. As everyone knew, that was the first thing the Estate Commissioners had to decide. Therefore it was the duty of the Estates Commissioners to have sent their inspector over the estate twelve months ago if the principle of priority then really came into operation, in order that he might report as to whether the case of the evicted tenants ought to be taken up. That case was a sample of the whole. The Estates Commissioners there could have said to the landlord that if he did not allow them to send an inspector on the estate they would not take up the case in order, but would put it down to the end of their list of pending estates because the landlord refused to help them in any way to carry out one of the main objects of the Act, which was to restore the evicted tenants to their holdings. There were numbers of estates in Ireland where the landlords proposed to sell and where no steps had been taken to restore the evicted tenants, which showed that the principle of priority was not in operation. Of course, there were other landlords, like Lord Clanricarde, who would not look at the Act of 1903. Lord Clanricarde would not touch it at any price, and the Estates Commissioners had now no power to deal with such a case as that. But they had power, if they would only exercise it, to deal with landlords who proposed to sell their estates. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to look into this matter. The Estates Commissioners were, under the regulations of the right hon. Members for Dover and South Dublin, bound to confine their inquiries, with regard to the evicted tenants, to the estates which came before them for sale, and the estates he had referred to were actually before them for sale. They had been before them for two years and nothing had been done except that the inspector, who should have the right to go on the estates, actually wrote to the landlords for permission to go on the evicted farms on the very estates in respect of which the owners had lodged originating applications for advances of State money to enable them to sell to their existing tenants. Such a thing was an outrage on common sense and business instincts. He further complained that some of the inspectors appointed by the present Government were men who, in the past, had fought in the land war in the active interest of the landlords, and contended that it was impossible to expect that these men would act quite fairly and justly in considering the position of the evicted tenants. In his own experience in the south of Ireland one of the inspectors recently appointed had taken part in evicting tenants in the past from estates for which he acted as agent. In one case the special inspector appointed had been sent to a district where he was a personal friend of many of the evicting landlords, with whom he was in the habit of hunting. The very first case with which he dealt was on the estate of a master of hounds, with whom he used to hunt. In that case the evicted tenant had died, and one member of his family, a daughter, had remained in a hut watching the farm from which they had been evicted, in order that she might get back to it. The farm house had fallen into ruins and the fences had tumbled down, even the boundary fence, and the farm, which had been in a fair state of tillage, was covered with furze and thorns. The landlord fixed a price which was absolutely prohibitive, and his friend, the inspector, said it was a fair price. But the evicted tenant would not have the farm, knowing very well that if she went back she would be in a couple of years turned out because she would be unable to pay the annuity on the price. In another case the inspector of the Estates Commissioners told the evicted tenant that he had made inquiries as to his character, and that he was not a proper person to go back to the farm. He would not say why, or of whom he had made inquiries. In yet another case restoration was to be refused because the inspector said the widow of the evicted tenant had grown too old and too feeble. The evicted tenant had died, and his widow had been out of the farm for twenty years, and because she had grown old and feeble she was not to be allowed to go back to the farm. That was the way in which the evicted tenants had been dealt with by some of the inspectors. In the case he had just referred to, the landlord had the evicted farm in his own hands and, in order to prevent the Estates Commissioners getting it into their hands, he had proceeded to plant it. All these cases required investigating again, because in the case where the inspector reported that the evicted tenant was not a proper person to have the farm, the tenant was a man in the prime of life, and was a very proper man to work the farm. All his neighbours declared that he would never have been evicted if the farm had been let at a proper rent and that it was only by other means that he had that he was enabled to pay the rent. He must, however, say that the Estates Commissioners had declared that the inspector must explain upon what grounds he made the report that the tenant was not entitled to get his farm back. There was a case also of another estate on which there were three holdings from two of which the tenants had been evicted. In that case the agent lived about twenty miles away. This agent had recently become the tenant of the two evicted holdings out of the three holdings forming the estate. The inspector wrote a letter to the evicted tenant asking what compensation he was prepared to give to this agent, who, since the passing of the Act of 1903, had obtained possession of the holdings as tenant, and who, immediately he had become tenant, had signed the agreement to purchase. This was adding insult to injury, and he could give a good many instances of that kind all over the country. It was an outrage to ask the tenant to compensate the agent for a farm which had been derelict for many years, and of which he became tenant, probably as trustee for the owner, since the passing of the Act, in order to make a claim for compensation, or to oust the rights of the evicted tenant. In another case, a professional land grabber bought a holding for £76, and the same inspector arranged that the man should receive £300 for that which had cost him £76; and he had called upon the evicted tenant to find £100; the Estates Commissioners were to find another £100, and the landlord, in order to facilitate the sale of his land, had promised to find the third £100. This was not entirely the fault of the inspector, because the grabber controlled the situation. The same man had grabbed four or five other farms in the same district, as to which he expected the same proportion of compensation. That was a sample of what the professional grabber was doing, and he was the first man appointed to the magistracy by the present Lord Chancellor in the county Tipperary on the recommendation of the Lord-Lieutenant of the county. He did not think that the inspectors of the Estates Commissioners ought to be compelled by law to tolerate these grabbers, who were drawing these large sums for compensation, though they had done nothing to improve the farms.

Throughout the country there were large tracts of land which the landlords declined to sell. In one parish alone in East Waterford there were 1,000 acres of evicted land, with about ten evicted tenants. The owner had refused to sell, and the existing tenants, in order to induce her to do so, had offered the highest rate of interest, so that pending adjudication and the advance of the purchase money the income of the owner should not suffer. They said they would give 4 per cent. in order to secure the farms for the evicted tenants, but no response was made to the suggestion, and it was very likely that the owner, a lady, would continue to refuse to sell. All over the country the existing tenants were offering higher prices, in order to secure the holdings for the evicted tenants. The landlords were using them as a lever to obtain higher prices. What was the position of the evicted tenants to-day? They were sick of the inspectors; they did not want the kind of special inspectors sent them in some places, any longer. Six months ago, in his own constituency, the inspector in certain cases had taken notes; he had himself gone round with him and seen the notes taken, but nothing had been done since. These inspectors were not going to settle the question of the evicted tenants, if they were only going to restore them on terms which would mean ruin to them. The evicted tenants were rapidly losing patience, and he warned the Chief Secretary that unless some change was made and unless compulsory powers were obtained with a view to restoring them to their holdings, there would be a recrudescence of agitation; there would be not only a violent agitation, but violence in the near future, unless a speedy and adequate attempt were made to rescue them from the position in which they found themselves.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.) said he was quite convinced that this question could not be settled without compulsion, though at the same time he thought compulsion should be extended over a very limited area. There were 6,000 evicted tenants. First of all there was a large class who had come to grief in the ordinary way. It was not to be supposed that these men were to be reinstated under the Bill of 1903. The second class might be called planters and grabbers. It was agreed that every effort should be made to get these men to give up the farms they had acquired, that the old tenants should be restored to their holdings, and that where it was found impossible to do that the Estates Commissioners should endeavour to get land elsewhere for them. He was glad to be able to say that in a good number of cases planters had been removed, and the old tenants were practically in possession. But there was a third class, and far away the most important class, to which attention should be given. There were 1,200 cases where the holdings from which the tenants were evicted were either derelict or cultivated by the landlords themselves, who positively refused to take back the tenants on any terms. Not only this House, but the House of Lords had sanctioned the principle of restoring evicted tenants. What could be done with these 1,200 men? The Marquess of Clanricarde, who had been referred to, stood in a different position; he had put in the planters.

Mr. DILLON: They are mostly gone.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL said he was glad to hear it, because it simplified the case. He was for doing anything with the Marquess of Clanricarde that the House was willing to do. It was twenty years since he wrote in *The Times*, after visiting the Marquess's estate, that he was ready to vote for a special Bill to expropriate him. He was a curse to the whole West of Ireland. With a rent roll of £16,000 a year he gave in charity only £10 a year to the National School, and he was bound by his father's will to give that. Here was a man, drawing £16,000 a year out of the poverty of Galway, who was a standing menace to the peace of the country, and responsible for many murders and outrages that had happened. The sooner he was paid his money and put out of the country the better would it be for the peace of the country. He asked the House what could be done in this case if they were not to apply the principle of compulsion? How were they going to get such men out from the possessions of the tenants, who were starving on the roadside, unless they were compelled to sell? Parliament had expressed the desire that this question of sale should be settled, yet Parliament continued to allow these 1,200 men to keep the country in a state of turmoil. He would not plead that these men should be reinstated simply as tenants, because he knew the friction that might take place. But there was nothing impossible in the compelling of these men to do by law what the Marquess of Lansdowne had done from his own good sense. Why should not a fair rent be fixed by the Estates Commissioners on these holdings? Why should not, when that fair rent has been fixed, the landlord be compelled to sell on the basis of a given number of years purchase? He could not see anything unreasonable in that. There was nothing unreasonable in saying to these men, "You must not disturb the peace of the country in this way." Property had its rights, but it also had its duties. These men must be told that the evicted tenants must be allowed to settle down. He personally would not object to give the landlords an extra year's bonus for compulsion. [A NATIONALIST MEMBER: Why?] To secure peace and for no other reason. This must be a question of give and take. Ever since the passing of the Land Act he had been extremely anxious to get this question settled, and that was the position he occupied that night. He had no responsibility, the real responsibility lay on the Government and on the House. He believed that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover was sincere in his desire to get this matter put right.

AN HON. MEMBER: Nonsense.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL said that was his belief. He hoped the Chief Secretary would free the Estates Commissioners from the bonds which had bound them in regard to untenanted land, and he would like to see the landlords who held farms themselves—and who were so spiteful that they would not even allow the inspectors to go on them—compelled to do what others had done without compulsion for the sake of the peace and prosperity of the country.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said the case for the evicted tenants had been so admirably put that he fully recognised that there was no necessity for him to labour the question. He intervened because he represented one of the counties of Ireland which during the Land League agitation was perhaps one of the most agitated and disturbed portions of Ireland. That agitation was extremely fierce, and the disturbances in Clare were perhaps more serious than in any other portion of the country. The county of Clare was now happily in a state of peace, and there was little, if anything, in the shape of disturbance. In common with his colleagues he was extremely anxious that the present undisturbed state of the county of Clare and the whole of Ireland should continue. The Irish representatives in the past had taken their place alongside the poor tenants in the agitation for land reform, and they suffered with the tenants whatever inconveniences had to be suffered. The principles for which they had fought had been recognised by the House, and they were anxious that this principle should be given full effect to. There were hundreds of evicted tenants in county Clare who had patiently waited for four years for something to be done, and their patience was very nearly exhausted. Everywhere in his constituency where he had spoken recently he had been asked when the Government promises in regard to the evicted tenants were going to be carried out. He replied that he believed the Government were going to do something. He did not think it would be possible much longer to keep in check the excitement and discontent which were growing up amongst the evicted tenants, and if they ended in disturbance and violence he would not be surprised, because the Government in regard to those tenants had been guilty of a gross breach of faith. The landlords and tenants met in solemn conference in Dublin, and it was solemnly agreed that the evicted tenants who had suffered through the agitation should be restored to their homes as rapidly as possible. What was the effect of that upon the country? There was a general agreement amongst all parties that as a preliminary to a settlement the evicted tenants should be restored.

Nobody could deny that. Three-and-a-half years had passed and tens of millions of money had changed hands by the sale of land. The Land Act had worked rapidly in every respect, except in regard to the evicted tenants. Was that fair? Were the people of Ireland to be blamed because they felt aggrieved in regard to this breach of faith? After waiting for three-and-a-half years they found that only 300 or 400 evicted tenants had been restored to their homes. That seemed like a mockery of the pledges given in this House by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover. The landlords had got their money in tens of millions, and yet the evicted tenants were still out. That being so, he asked the Chief Secretary whether it was outside the bounds of possibility for the Government promptly and effectually to carry out the pledge given to Parliament, the Land Conference, and the whole people of Ireland, and to restore the evicted tenants. A suggestion had been made as to compulsory powers. Most of the men on the Nationalist Benches believed that the form of compulsion exercised without any infringement of the legitimate rights of property in Australia, New Zealand, and other parts of the Empire, might without any danger be applied in extreme cases in Ireland. But it was not their business to suggest to the Chief Secretary or the Government whether they should do this thing ultimately by compulsion, or in some other way. The fact remained that they were bound in honour before the world to do it, and it was for them, with all the resources and powers at their command, to see that it was done, and it was necessary for the honour and good name of this House that it should be done at once fully and effectually. He had spoken to twelve different Chief Secretaries since he entered this House. What had become of them all he did not know, and he was bound in candour to say that he did not care. He hoped that when the time came to part with the present Chief Secretary at some distant date they would do so with good feeling. He appealed to the right hon. Gentleman not to be satisfied by stating what Mr. Bryce, who was now on the way to Washington, said twelve months ago, that the Government would see what they could do as to greater speed in dealing with this matter. A year had passed since that statement was made, and there had been no greater speed whatever. If it was not dealt with, this one question would wreck the hopes and the prospects of the present Administration.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The hon. Gentleman who has just sat down, and, earlier in the debate, the hon. Member for West Donegal, who seconded the Amendment, spoke good-naturedly and with perfect sincerity of the grievance Ireland suffers because of the repeated change of the Chief Secretary; and the hon. Gentleman who has just sat down reminded me, if I needed to be reminded of it, that my predecessor has only just laid down the seals of his office, and is now speeding across the Atlantic. Although I am a bad sailor, in some moods I could almost wish that I were by his side, but in manlier moments I am glad to be here. Well, fortunately, in this matter of the evicted tenants it is not necessary for me to go back into the stormy history of the past. It is quite enough for me to recognise that in 1903 a Parliamentary bargain was come to; and I do not think anybody will deny that the evicted tenants appear before this House, through their representatives, asking for the performance of a distinct bargain. We are jealous in this House of the honour of Parliament and of Parliamentary bargains, even when they are only made on small matters between the two Front Benches as to the course of debate or the time at which a divison is to be taken. Surely we are not going to be less desirous of maintaining our honour in a matter of such vital importance as this? I therefore start, as any person in my position would have to start whether they liked it or not, on that footing. A bargain was made whilst the Act of 1903 was under discussion in this House—a bargain which, if it had not been made, might have had a considerable effect upon the fortunes of that measure. The bargain was made, and the people for whose benefit it was made now come to us, pointing out that three and a half years have gone by, and those promises are only very partially fulfilled. That is the general spirit in which we approach this question. I recognise the bargain, I recognise the obligation, I admit the length of time, and I agree as cordially as any man can do that this is a question that brooks no delay, not only in the interests of the evicted tenants themselves, but in the interests, for which I am particularly responsible, of peace and order in Ireland. I understand it to be an indisputable fact that in those places where, unfortunately, a spirit of unrest and disturbance exists, and where nobody can feel that confidence he would like to feel as to the maintenance of order, you will often find it is due to the presence in the midst of a sympathetic, and it may be inflammable, population of a number of these evicted tenants whose wrongs are for ever before their eyes. Consequently, both in the interests of Parliament and Parliamentary honour, and also in the interests of that law and order to which we are all so deeply attached, I fully recognise that this question is one of primary importance, and, as I have said, brooks no delay. Reference has been made to the total number of applications that have been received up to date in this matter. The figures have been given as 6,600, but it is only fair to say that out of those 6,600 cases 339 were received only last month. Consequently, nobody can be blamed for not having disposed of those. Of the 6,600 claims that have been received, I find the total number of applications rejected as not being within the meaning of the Act was 384, and the total rejected as unfit to be annuitants, or for other reasons, was 963. The total restored was 644. Of these, 465 tenants have been restored by the landlords, with the assistance of grants from the Estates Commissioners, and 179 on lands purchased by the Estates Commissioners themselves. It would not be fair to the Estates Commissioners to remove altogether those 465 tenants who have been restored by the landlords with the assistance of grants from their purview, because the great majority of them, if not all, did come actually under their purview, and it was owing largely to their friendly office and to their assistance that they have been able to be restored. Now the total reported on, but not disposed of, amounts to 1,636. Of these, further analysis shows that 673 have been actually noted as suitable for parcels of untenanted land. Therefore, we have full power and only wait for the land which they are entitled to have as soon as it can be obtained. Offers have been accepted by owners, and the tenants will shortly be restored in fifty-one cases. Offers have been made and are under consideration by owners in seventy cases. The cases inquired into, but in which inspection of holdings has been refused, is 542. In that gloomy and discreditable list we must, of course, I need hardly add, include the Clanricarde estate. The cases in process of being ruled by the Commissioners are 300. That makes up the total I have given of 1,636. I ought perhaps to have said that, out of the black list of 542, there are seventy-one, I am happy to say, in which the owners have recently agreed to allow inspection. Therefore, that figure should be reduced to 471. The cases not yet reported on are 3,053. That is the full statement of the figures as far as I know. I believe it was not contemplated by any of the parties to this agitation that there would be so large a number of cases. I am told it was supposed in people's minds that a thousand would be the outside number of evicted tenants. Well, of that imaginary thousand we have at all events dealt, in the circumstances to which I will refer in a moment, with 644. I do not want to make Party recriminations upon this occasion; but unfortunately the operations which were necessary to fulfil this preliminary bargain were from the very beginning mutilated and reduced to comparative inutility. There was not a sufficient staff placed at the disposal of the Commissioners; and, furthermore, regulations, to which reference has been made, were imposed on the operation of this bargain which rendered progress very difficult and necessarily very slow. I say no more about that; it was most regrettable, in my opinion. When the change of Government took place my distinguished predecessor approached this subject after receiving the full information upon it which it was necessary for him to have. He acted promptly. He repealed those restrictions, and, so to speak—partly, at any rate—set the Estates Commissioners free to perform the bargain which Parliament had made for them. But they were face to face with the difficulty of an insufficient staff. They had not got enough people to send about the country to make the necessary inspection. Then they approached the Treasury. I am not going to quarrel with the Treasury. I have already received some slight intimation that I must be cautious in these matters. My reason for wishing to keep on good terms with the Treasury is that I shall be a sturdy beggar at their doors, and I am most anxious to keep on harmonious relations with them. All I would say, and this I will say in the language of antiquity not to be misunderstood, *Bis dat qui cito dat.* A demand was made on the Treasury for extra assistance, ultimately recognised as reasonable, and granted; but nine months elapsed during which our obligations were most slenderly fulfilled, because we had not at our disposal a staff to get the necessary information. I hope the Treasury will bear in mind the maxim I have quoted couched in an ancient tongue; and this explains and accounts for—very unsatisfactorily, I admit—the position in which the matter now is. Had restrictions not been imposed, had we always had an adequate and a proper staff, much greater progress would have been made. However, this is not the fault of the tenants, and ought not to impair their rights, but should make us all the more anxious to accelerate their hour of deliverance. The position stands as follows. My department will put the utmost pressure it possibly can upon the Commissioners and the Executive, representing to them that steps must be taken as quickly as possible; and I am informed—and have every reason to believe the promise will be realised after full consideration of the facts of the case and the means at our disposal—that at the end of April we shall be in a position to say that we have adjudicated upon every claim. Then we shall know how many evicted tenants there are to be restored. When we know the number of acres there are in every locality and the amount required to fulfil our Parliamentary obligations and keep our word with these people, and what are the chances and possibilities of obtaining the land at once —when we are charged with these facts, this complete knowledge which it will be necessary for us to possess before we can reasonably approach the question of compulsion, we shall know all that is to be known in the matter. For my part, I fully recognise the obligation of this House, of the Government, of every Party in the House, to set to work during this session to see to it that this thing is done. I cannot suppose, I cannot believe, that anybody can have any doubt that this is the only course open to us. Nobody can deny that it was never intended when the Act of 1903 was under discussion that three and a half years should go by, three and a half years after the Bill became law, and the House of Commons be face to face with the facts I have just placed upon record. That was not the intention of Parliament. The intention was that this old sore should be healed, that these men, without going into their past history, should be restored to their holdings, that bygones should be bygones, that an unhappy phase in Irish history should be wiped out—would to heaven we could treat many other phases in the same fashion—all agreed this was the course to be taken. It was recorded in an Act of Parliament; and nobody can dispute that a Government would be well within its right —not only that, but that a Government would be performing a plain duty—if, without a moment's delay on being in possession of the facts desirable to know, it at once proceeded with the remedial measures necessary. References have been made to the case—the shocking case, in my opinion—of Lord Clanricarde. Not very long ago I was reading in that venerable "Journal of Comparative Legislation," which records for lawyers enactments passed in different parts of the Empire, and therein I find that in Bombay in 1905 a Court of Wards was established with power to provide for the management of the estate of any person who by reason of age, sex, or any physical or mental infirmity, or such habits as had caused, or were likely to cause, injury to the property or the well-being of inferior tenants. By the terms of this Act of Parliament—if I may so call it—of Bombay such persons may be disqualified from the management of their own property, and I find that similar Acts have been passed for most of the other provinces, and was not until 1905 considered necessary in Bombay. Now, looking as I do to all parts of the Empire for consolation and support, I may say that I feel no aversion or disinclination to make myself responsible for the passage through the House of a Bill which would propose to treat Lord Clanricarde after the fashion of the Court of Wards. I would not propose to expropriate him; I would simply take from him the management of the estate which, in my judgment, he has shown himself wholly incompetent to manage, and impose on a Court of Wards or any similar body the obligation to manage the estate in accordance with the best interests of the landlord, the tenants, and Ireland itself, and if they thought it would be in the best interests of all they would sell the property on the best terms to be obtained under the Act of 1903. That might be one solution; and, on the other hand, the managers might agree to the restoration of evicted tenants in the manner which has commended itselt to the minds of many good landlords in Ireland. Delay and difficulty might arise, owing to our forms, in securing the rapid passage of such a measure; but I should have no hesitation in promoting such a measure to deal with landlords who do not conform to the common standard of how a landlord should behave and thereby expose the country to the risk of outrage and murder. I remember the late Matthew Arnold expressly advocating such a measure. It has been pointed out that this estate is haunted by the ghosts of murdered men. It is not for us, or anybody, to seek to determine who are the real murderers; it is enough to know that such an estate is a danger to the community, and the community as a whole is entitled in its own interest, for the preservation of the common peace, to say to such a man, "Stand aside, you are unfitted for your obligations, we will discharge them in your name." I fear such a measure might not have such a rapid passage through Parliament as the necessities of the case require. I can only say that as soon as we are in possession of the facts, in April or May, we shall take immediate action to rescue the House from the position it occupies, which somewhat reflects upon its honour, and without unnecessary delay place before the House the means for securing the restitution of these people about whose claim there is no question. We have all given a promise which awaits fulfilment. I hope, therefore, we shall spare no pains in bringing about its fulfilment. For myself I shall approach the problem with one sole aim, to effect the restoration of these tenants either to their own holdings or to other unoccupied lands, and supplied with sufficient funds for live stock, and to secure to them the possibility of earning their own living. That, of course, is part of the bargain. They have been reduced to a position of bankruptcy, and we must place them in a position in which, by thrift and industry, they may spend the rest of their days in peace and contentment. I say for myself, and I think all Parties will agree, that patience is demanded. These people have been turned out of their homes, have incurred severe privations in the land war which was so injurious to Ireland, and have suffered from diseases; many have died, but their children have clung to their old homes, possessed with the desire to see Parliament keep its word. I hope the opportunity will soon be placed at the disposal of the House for Parliament to keep its word. I shall not shrink from the obligation. I am glad in a sense that the obligation is so simple. It is a clear-cut case that is presented for judgment, and I will do my best. I am sorry that some complaints have been made as to the partisan character of inspectors. I have not yet had experience, but I know that as soon as I have had I shall know how difficult it is to find a thoroughly impartial person with knowledge of the land question. It is of no use to send a sentimental grocer on the duty of land inspection; it must be somebody who has knowledge; and that limits the selection to some extent, thought I suppose in Ireland knowledge of land is more widespread than it is in England. I only ask hon. Members to be as patient as possible. After all, the cases have to be adjudicated upon, and though it may be necessary to call attention to any particular scandal, I hope hon. Gentleman will take as favourable a view as they can of persons engaged in a very difficult task. I am ready, of course, to listen to any such case. I can only say I have no knowledge of any. The Commissioners themselves do not think there is any just cause of complaint against their staff in this respect. With regard to the matter mentioned by the Member for West Waterford, I will have an inquiry made into it. But I can assure him it is the practice of the Commissioners to refuse to sanction the terms of purchase in the case of a landlord who is in the possession of untenanted lands and where there are evicted tenants, unless he makes provision for the evicted tenants. The application of the landlord referred to by the hon. Gentleman may have been passed by the Commissioners, but the landlord has not got his money and will not get it until the question of the evicted tenants has been settled. I can only say again, in conclusion, that the case of the evicted tenants as a whole is one of a clear Parliamentary bargain, from the execution of which the Government will in no way shrink.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (Waterford) said he rose instantly to say that the statement of the Chief Secretary was completely satisfactory. The words of the right hon. Gentleman would be read by the mass of the people of Ireland, and especially by the evicted tenants, not only as an expression of sympathy, but as a definite pledge which would give them the fullest confidence in the future. It was not for his sympathy he thanked the right hon. Gentleman. He took that for granted. What he did thank the right hon. Gentleman for was his definite promise that after he had obtained the necessary information he would, in April or May, propose measures to carry out the Parliamentary agreement for the reinstatement of the evicted tenants. The satisfaction of the people of Ireland with that promise would be enhanced by what the right hon. Gentleman had said in reference to Lord Clanricarde. At long last a British Minister had been found with courage enough to say publicly at the Table of the House what Ministers and Members had been saying privately for years; and he sincerely hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to carry out a scheme in regard to Lord Clanricarde which would prevent the great settlement of the land in Ireland being marred by the criminal and insane action of one individual.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said that when he succeeded to the Irish Office he accepted the view of his predecessor as to the bargain which had been come to in regard to the evicted tenants, a view which his reading of the debates on the subject supported—namely, that where an estate was offered for sale the evicted tenants should be dealt with as ordinary tenants of the estate. There could be no doubt whatever that in the interest, not merely of those unfortunate people themselves, whatever their past history might have been, but in the interest of the successful working of the great Purchase Act, their reinstatement was looked upon as an essential element, and as a thing that had been promised by Parliament. He, therefore, was not going to say anything in depreciation of the decision at which the Chief Secretary had arrived, which, indeed, in the present circumstances of the moment, was justified by the facts. The point had been raised by the hon. Member for South Tyrone—How were they to give effect to the intentions of Parliament in regard to land purchase? One of the conditions which had secured the passing of the Purchase Act was the avoidance of compulsion. The main object of that measure was to secure the transmission of the land of Ireland from one class to another; and if it was to have the beneficial effects which all desired it should have, it was obvious that it must be, slowly perhaps, but in the end universal in its application. It would not do to have here and there groups of tenants who, for one reason or another, failed to become owners of their holdings. The hon. Member had stated that in some of these cases the offers made to the landlords and refused were not unreasonable or improper. He agreed with the Chief Secretary as to the necessity of complete information. He could not agree to compulsion because in certain cases there had been unwillingness on the part of the landlords to come under the operation of the Purchase Act. But if the Government were in a position to say that the Act could not operate, that there were difficulties in its way even where fair and reasonable terms had been offered, it was a question that would require grave consideration on the part of every one who was desirous to see the Act operating and restoring peace and order to a country which had been too long distracted by troubles of all sorts. He would only say, in reference to the Chief Secretary's remarks about one individual landlord, that the right hon. Gentleman had opened up a prospect of not only novel, but contentious legislation; and he could not help hoping that the observations of the right hon. Gentleman on that particular point would save him from the difficulty. He thought it his duty to say these few words, because he was sincerely anxious, where they could all act together in trying to bring happiness to

Ireland, that no act of cowardice, no want of appreciation of the existing facts and difficulties, should prevent anybody, however humble his influence might be, from making even a small contribution to that joint work of peace. He adhered to the great political principles of the Party with which he was associated; but he saw nothing in those principles to lead him to say more than he had already said—namely, that when they knew all the circumstances of the case it would be a matter of the gravest possible consideration for all whether or not some further legislation might not be necessary to give effect to the intentions of Parliament.

MR. BIRRELL: May I make one more observation, as this has become a very serious occasion—indeed, perhaps, I might say historical? I hold to every word that I have said, but I wish to say that I ought to have said "May" rather than "April."

MR. NOLAN (Louth, S.) said he desired to draw attention to one very important matter which up to the present had been entirely overlooked. Anyone with a logical mind would see the inutility of reinstating the old evicted tenants while the process of creating a new class of evicted tenants was still going on, and he hoped the efforts of the Government would at an early date be directed to putting an end to such evictions as that which had occurred in his own constituency. In that case a man was evicted who by his life of honest industry had earned the good opinion of all the people in his neighbourhood who were acquainted with him. He had paid his rent regularly during the term of his tenancy, but in the old days, it might have been in that terrible time of famine and pestilence which swept over Ireland some sixteen years ago, or during the period of the slump in prices which occurred in the sixties, a large debt had accumulated on the farm. Although the tenant, with the aid of some of his friends and neighbours who had every confidence in his industry and integrity, made an offer to the landlord to pay off a large proportion of the arrears due on the farm, the landlord refused the offer. He held that tenant in the position of what was called a "future tenant," so that he could not go to the Court and secure a reduction of his rent, and was thus forced to pay double the rent paid by his friends and neighbours for exactly the same class of land. The end was that no later than last summer the landlord evicted the tenant and sent in two caretakers of the class so well known in Ireland, who went about the neighbourhood in a half-drunken condition with loaded revolvers in their possession, a menace to the peace of the neighbourhood. He agreed with what had been said as to the fact that the speech of the right hon. Gentleman would be read to-morrow with the utmost satisfaction by millions of the people of Ireland, and only wanted to draw attention to the fact that his work would be incomplete, even if he succeeded in reinstating all the old evicted tenants, unless something was done to prevent the creation of a new class such as to that which he referred.

MR. HAYDEN said that after the observations which had fallen from the right hon. Gentleman he would beg leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. J. F. MASON (Windsor) rose to move the following Amendment to the Address—

"Humbly to represent to Your Majesty that the interests of agriculture are suffering from the neglect of Your Majesty's Ministers materially to encourage scientific agricultural research."

He said the object of his Amendment was to call attention to the backwardness of scientific research in agriculture in the United Kingdom as compared with other countries; and yet no nation was equally dependent on getting the fullest measure of profit from the soil. Our foreign competitors, in wheat, could work with a gross return of £3 an acre (yields varied from twenty bushels in Canada to ten bushels in Russia and Argentina—say two-and-a-half quarters, netting at outside 25s. a quarter to the farmer. The straw was worthless and was either burnt or ploughed in) whereas in England—owing largely to the high rates and taxes which the land had to bear and the smaller fields in which agriculture was carried out, £7 per acre must be made as compared with the maximum of £3 by our competitors. This was not in any way a question of landlord and tenant, because if the tenant owned the land and the rent of the land was deducted they would still be left with the fact that owing to the heavy burdens the land had to bear the farmer in this country would still have to produce double the amount that his competitors produced in order to make it pay. That meant that farming in this country could only be carried on by putting more capital into the business, and getting a greater output, a result which could only be obtained by having more scientific methods and employing greater skill in the business. To succeed at all we must use more fertilisers—but of the right kind; we must recognise plant diseases, and learn how to attack them. Without wishing to raise any controversial matter, he desired to point out that the majority in this House, holding strong views as to free trade, were apt to say that agriculture must improve its methods; yet the farmer's foreign competitor got State assistance in the way of information which was not available in this country. The basis of all improvement was knowledge. This knowledge was too expensive and difficult to obtain to be within the reach of the farmer. The Board of Agriculture was constantly being asked for advice, but had no machinery or staff to enable it to get, or impart, that knowledge. On botanical questions it consulted the Kew Staff, for chemical advice it went to the Government Laboratory, but in neither place did it appear to have anyone to consult acquainted with agricultural science. As an instance of this deficiency the Board recently had to inquire into the presence, in this country, of the American gooseberry mildew. Its only adviser was Mr. Massee of Kew, who said that it was of old standing, but, as a matter of fact, he did not know. Since then he had been repudiated; but the real point was "that neither Kew nor Mr. Massee had any means of investigating such a question." As a further instance of important plant diseases which caused immense loss in large industries he might mention clover sickness and big bud in currants. This disease had, during fifteen years, caused immense loss to the market gardener, and the price of currants to the public had been materially increased. The case had been investigated by Mr. Collinge, of Birmingham University; but, of course, could not, under the circumstances, receive the amount of attention and corroboration to which it was entitled, and a more comprehensive investigation might easily remedy the evil. There was also the disease known as cucumber leaf spot. The immense industry of cucumber growing at places like the Lea Valley had been threatened with destruction by this disease. The Board of Agriculture had described the disease, but had no means of suggesting a remedy. Growers had lost nine-tenths of their crops in 1903–4, and to show the ravages it had caused, a syndicate of them gave £1,000 for a secret remedy, which, however, failed. This showed how hard hit they were. None of these diseases was thoroughly understood, and meanwhile immense loss was being incurred. But the agriculturist required scientific advice in other directions. First, he required an improvement in the system of rotation of crops. For instance, it had recently become known that leguminous plants were able to render the nitrogen in the air available as plant food by the action of certain bacteria, and thus get the most expensive ingredient of plant food for nothing. This discovery was capable of effecting a revolution in agriculture, but, before that could be done immense knowledge must be acquired as to the nature and peculiarities of the friendly bacteria. Again, the blind use of expensive fertilisers, without knowledge of their constituents, and also of full information as to the condition and qualities of the soil, was a source of loss; yet the determination of these details was too costly to permit each farmer to study them for himself, and he therefore needed help and information. Nor must they forget that as recent legislation put more and more power into the farmer's hands as regarded freedom in cropping, and the general methods he employed, so it was more and more important that he should not use that power without knowledge; and in many cases this knowledge could only be obtained after long and patient working on experimental lines, which was far beyond the farmer's means, both as to time and money. Other possible improvements were to be found in the introduction of improved varieties of plants by cross-breeding and selection. Another matter, also of intense interest to agriculture, was the scientific feeding of cattle. Practically nothing was being done in this direction at present. In order to prevent waste, it was essential that the animal should be fed with an exact proportion of nitrogenous foods and carbohydrates, any excess of one or the other being lost. At present the mixture of foods was fixed by a "rule of thumb" method arrived at by practice, but by no means perfect. Experiments on this could be made with immense advantage, but would cost money, and were beyond the sphere of effort of the tenant farmer. Again, let them recall the fact that recent legislation made compensation for improvements dependent on their success, and, therefore, debarred the tenant from running costly risks in new departures. He thought he had shown the need of machinery to make investigations of enormous importance to our greatest national industry, and to give information to the farmer which he was unable to acquire for himself. What had been done towards this end, so far? The grants made by the Government were almost entirely to educational colleges, where, the business being to teach practical farming, little attention could be devoted to original research. Out of £10,550 thus granted, about £1,600 went towards the upkeep of demonstration farms, and on these a little investigation was carried on, although the primary object was the teaching of students. The work that had been done in research was almost entirely due to private effort, and long might such splendid individual effort be encouraged in this country. The late Sir J. B. Lawes was perhaps the greatest benefactor the farmer ever had; he devoted the best of his life to this work, and left £100,000 in trust to continue it. Other private installations had also rendered wonderful public benefits, but the work awaiting to be done, and lying beyond the power and means of those establishments, was enormous; and while they waited the country was losing many thousands of pounds a year by the delay. Now let them see what had been done in other countries interested in agriculture, yet none so deeply as England. The United States in 1905 spent £201,000 on agricultural research, and in addition each State had a station, and received from the Federal Government £3,000 a year. Germany has nineteen stations, receiving from £1,000 to £4,000 a year each from the State. The Canadian Government, in 1905, spent £17,000, and the Transvaal, in 1905, spent £37,000 in this matter. Yet England in 1905 gave, apart from educational grants, only £425 towards an object of far greater importance to us than to any other nation in the world. But that sum had been reduced, and in 1906 England gave only £355. He was the last man in the world to wish to discourage or replace individual effort by State work, or State interference. He believed that the best work, and the greatest discoveries, not only had been due to private enterprise, but could never have been reached by State Departments. But he did not say that a judicious assistance by the State of those engaged in work which already taxed to the full their powers and resources might not be accorded, nor did he think that some scientific work might not be done by a State Department to supplement and help that now done by individuals. Such a course would ensure continuity—now frequently broken—and would often save the expense and necessity for special commissions to inquire into particular questions involving the sudden and costly mounting of staff and material for the necessary experiments. He would suggest that the Board of Agriculture should have a scientific staff, and scientific machinery, to enable it to give information which was daily asked of it, without being so largely dependent on getting the information from outside sources. He also thought that the Government might subsidise to a moderate extent those existing establishments which were doing such good work, to enable them to enlarge their field of usefulness, and put the results at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture for the benefit of the public. The Board of Agriculture filled a most useful and necessary position at present, but it might be the fountain of much knowledge, and by its assistance and encouragement might enormously increase the power for good now exhibited by private establishments. To make it so would require, of course, funds, although not large sums, and the answer to this suggestion might be that there were no funds. But in a nation which spent millions on education, and much legislative time in passing laws, mostly quite useless, to improve the position of this difficult industry, would it not be worth while doing something to increase the output of knowledge on which education was based, and at the same time render to agriculture a real service, with which none of our Agricultural Acts could compare in importance? He begged to move the Amendment standing in his name.

*MR. ABEL SMITH (Hertfordshire, Hertford) said he agreed with what had been said in regard to the necessity of more public money being devoted to agricultural scientific research. The late Sir John Lawes was a very remarkable man and the establishments he founded and carried on for so many years were absolutely unique. He was a very remarkable man in other ways, because he was able to endow the experimental station at Rothampstead with £100,000 at his death. The work which Sir John Lawes had carried on for so long was being continued by a Committee, but it had been found that even the funds derived from this large endowment were quite inadequate for any extension of agricultural experiments, and there was only just sufficient to carry on the experiment initiated by Sir John Lawes. He hoped the Government would be able to see their way to help the Rothampsted Committee. In his county they were deeply interested in this matter, because those engaged in producing vegetables and flowers under glass, which had now become a very important industry, suffered very much from diseases which affected and destroyed their produce, and it was necessary to have the diseases investigated with a view to finding a remedy. He had not the slightest doubt that if more scientific knowledge was placed at the disposal of the farmer it would prove to be an enormous advantage to British agriculture. A friend of his, who was comparatively a young man, had initiated a very interesting experiment. He had obtained the services of a scientific expert and he was gradually making headway amongst the farmers, and getting them to realise that it was a great advantage to have a man of that sort amongst them to place his scientific knowledge at their disposal. If the cultivation of arable land was to be continued successfully it was absolutely necessary that the most modern and scientific methods should be adopted. He wished to press this matter most earnestly upon the attention of the representative of the Government, and he sincerely hoped that some steps would be taken very shortly which would be of assistance to those who were hampered by not having sufficient means at their disposal to carry on this most important work of agricultural research. He desired to second the Amendment.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question to add the words 'but humbly to represent to Your Majesty that the interests of agriculture are suffering from the neglect of your Majesty's Ministers materially to encourage scientific agricultural research.'"—(*Mr. James Mason.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*SIR FRANCIS CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.) thought the hon. Member for Windsor had rendered a real service to the country and to the House by bringing forward this Amendment. It was not moved in any spirit of hostility to the Government. The points which the hon. Member had laid before the House were of the greatest importance, and he had stated his case with great moderation. He was not sure whether some of the observations of the hon. Member as to the actual amount of money spent upon agricultural reseach were quite accurate, and he was inclined to believe that some of the figures he had quoted were rather misleading. His impression was that through the experimental work of institutions like the agricultural department of Cambridge University and the Essex County laboratories at Chelmsford a good deal more money than the hon. Member imagined was being expended upon agricultural research. Nevertheless, he agreed that the Government were spending far too little. He believed that upon all the several objects of the group of colleges and schools aided by the State there was only about £69,000 devoted to the educational, experimental, and research work of these institutions. The United States had applied vast resources to these objects. As many hon. Members were aware, in America enormous tracts of land had been set apart for the endowment of agricultural and scientific colleges, and the total capital value actually there applied to these purposes amounted to something like £20,000,000, while the annual income was about £2,000,000. At least half of these sums might be taken as being devoted to the development of agriculture, and a larger proportion was being given to special investigations, and to extensive demonstration farms. In this country, besides the grants specially made by the Board of Agriculture, there were considerable sums spent by county councils on scholarships, lectureships, and other matters, in connection with the spread of scientific knowledge on agricultural subjects. The sum so spent was considerable when compared with the amount contributed by the Board of Agriculture. The total amount ran up to about £69,000 for the whole of the educational, experimental, and research duties of these colleges. That was a mere drop in the bucket, and a great deal more ought to be done. It was impossible to exaggerate the importance of developing scientific research in the methods of agriculture. Referring to the admirable scientific research and experimental work that was being done in Canada, he said that the colleges there had been exceedingly progressive, and of late years vast improvements were being carried out under the management of one of the ablest Scottish agriculturists. Scientific research as applied there to the processes of cheese production had produced a complete revolution in securing the markets for Canadian cheese. Ten years ago the cheese produced in the Western States of America, largely composed of materials the nature of which they ought not to inquire too fully into, had the run of our markets here. That kind of cheese was not now being imported into this country. The bulk of the cheese which we imported now was from Canada, and of excellent quality, scientifically produced by improved methods as the result of research. Interesting experiments had also been carried out by Professor Robertson in the selection of seeds by starting all over the country competitions of boys and girls upon farms in selecting the best seeds and heaviest head, for resowing cereals, year by year. The result of these experiments had been in the case of oats to raise the productiveness of the soil from fifty-four to seventy-two bushels per acre and in the case of wheat from twenty-five to thirty-four bushels. In Canada this principle of scientific research had been carried out in a most lavish manner by the generosity of public men. Sir William Macdonald had just completed a new agricultural college for the Province of Quebec. That college was equipped with no less than three farms which were arranged to illustrate every type of farming applicable to the Dominion. That was a splendid example of the kind of work which ought to be carried out in this country, and those who held the purse strings and were responsible for the administration of the Agricultural Department could not fail to see that there was a vast field open to them where every means in their power ought to be employed to encourage and develop scientific experiment and research. He did not know that he altogether agreed with his hon. friend in thinking that the Board of Agriculture ought to have a larger scientific staff. He did not approve of too much concentration of the work. He thought the best and most useful work could be done by people specially interested in different localities. It was quite true that the Board of Agriculture was doing useful work in that direction. He had been assured that the *Journal* published by the Board and illustrating the results of various branches of research had been found to be of great service both in the United States and in Canada. The "Farmers' Institutes" in Canada were an admirable agency by which the results of scientific experiments and research were brought before farmers in the form of attractive lectures and discussions. In these Institutes we had an example which might be followed with advantage in this country. A great deal of good work, too, was being done in Ireland under the administration of Sir Horace Plunkett. To select one example; intelligent labourers and young farmers were encouraged to become apprentices on the experimental farms, thus spreading knowledge. In the way of private effort the benefit which men of wealth and opportunity had rendered and could render in starting such centres for agricultural research and stimulating study could hardly be exaggerated, He could not help thinking that the enormous benefactions given to public libraries and things of that kind might with still greater advantage be devoted to the setting up of model schools and colleges in typical agricultural districts on lines similar to what Sir William Macdonald was doing in Canada. Such institutions would be true centres of light and leading in the agricultural districts.

VISCOUNT HELMSLEY (Yorkshire, N.R., Thirsk) said it was pleasant for both Parties in the House to find themselves in agreement on agricultural questions. He was sure that hon. Members on both sides felt a debt of gratitude to the hon. Member for Windsor for raising this important subject. There was hardly another Member who could have raised it with greater appropriateness, for he himself and his father before him had done much for agricultural research. Farmers had arrived at a time when they were riper, if he might say so, for agricultural research. He did not think there ever was a time in the history of agriculture when farmers realised more than they did to-day how important it was for their industry that it should be conducted on the latest and most scientific principles. Whenever in his district there was a lecture by any scientific professor on agricultural questions there was a large attendance of farmers anxious to hear the results of latest experiments. He knew that they watched with great interest the experimental farm which was conducted jointly by the county councils in Yorkshire, and that farmers throughout the country nowadays who were go-ahead, business-like men would welcome most heartily further opportunities of gaining knowledge and the assistance of agricultural research by the Government by means of grants. There was no doubt that the use of artificial fertilisers was becoming more and more general throughout the country. There was equally little doubt that the knowledge about these fertilisers was, in a great many cases, very vague and unsatisfactory; and it was very important, if farmers were not going to waste their capital and their labour, that only those fertilisers should be used which were adapted to the particular soils with which the farmer had to work. Therefore, the greater acquisition of knowledge would be of the greatest benefit to all engaged in agriculture. The hon. Member who spoke last, it seemed to him, had rather minimised the importance of the figures mentioned by the hon. Member for Windsor. A considerable distinction should be drawn between the establishments which were educational and demonstrative in their nature and those which existed purely for research. It seemed to him that where there was an endowment for research it should be devoted exclusively to that purpose. He thought that research must, to a considerable extent, suffer from being mixed up with education and demonstration; because education and demonstration only dealt with existing knowledge. There were demonstration plots at the agricultural colleges. That was nothing new, but these plots were used for the purposes of education, and showed nothing which had not been found out years ago. What was wanted was to make scientific inquiry without touching on education at all, so as to give fresh knowledge to students. His hon. friend the Member for Windsor was within the mark when he said that only £435 were devoted yearly to agricultural research, and he thought that those figures were in themselves a disgrace to this country. In the United States of America no less than £201,000 were devoted to agricultural research, and vast sums of money were voted by Canada and the Transvaal for research in addition to other forms of assistance to agriculture. Although agriculture was of more importance to England than to any other country in the world, only a paltry sum of little more than £400 was granted for agricultural research! He maintained that agriculture had peculiar claims for assistance in this respect, because it bore a disproportionate burden of the taxation of the country. Every head of grain grown, and every fat bullock paid its share of general taxation and more than its fair share of local taxation, and on that ground it should receive as generous treatment as other industries at the hands of the State. He hoped that the noble Lord at the head of the Agricultural Department and the hon. Baronet who represented the Department in this House would persuade the Chancellor of the Exchequer to do something more by way of endowing agricultural research, either by increasing the grants to public institutions, or by increasing the scientific staff at the Board of Agriculture itself. It would be only a drop in the ocean of national expenditure, but it would mean a great deal to agriculture.

*MR. VERNEY (Buckinghamshire, N.) said that this question was of the utmost importance to the country. It had been well said that agriculture was the biggest and the healthiest industry which existed. That question of health was an asset, the importance of which the country was gradually realising. Although it was not easily put into terms of pounds, shillings, and pence, it was an asset the value of which could hardly be exaggerated when the predominance of our race in the years to come was considered. There was an extraordinary contrast between the expenditure on technical education now going on in the towns, and the very minute expenditure of public money in respect of agriculture. He had served on the Board of Polytechnics in London for seven or eight years, and he knew something of the extraordinary eagerness shown by men of the artisan class to go into workshops. That was a very good thing, and nobody could blame them for it; and the result was that young men and women were practically taught almost freely the necessary knowledge of the different industries which they wished to pursue. Young people were trooping into the towns from the country, causing a great deal of the over-population in the towns and the de-population of the country. Next to nothing was being done to keep the people on the land by encouraging them to get an elementary knowlede of scientific farming which was so necessary for the benefit of the whole country and for agriculture. Let the House contrast what was done for agriculture in this country and in foreign countries. He visited Denmark and Sweden last year, and observed the enormous interest taken by the Governments of those countries in fostering their agricultural industries. They all admired the admirable work done at Rothampsted and the patriotic spirit which had induced Sir John Lawes and others to spend their money in experiments which were of national importance. There were growing up at present great institutions like Reading University which owed much to the private munificence of Lady Wantage and others, who had spent thousands of pounds on that institution. The work done there constituted a large claim on the Government for supplemental aid out of public funds. As to research from a scientific point of view, he might mention that Reading University had for years past undertaken a complete analysis of the soils of some of the neighbouring counties. That was an extremely difficult kind of work if carried out thoroughly, but was of the greatest possible advantage to those engaged in the cultivation of the soil in those districts. There was no doubt that the farmers of this country were beginning to wake up to the necessity of introducing science into their profession, but the movement required to be stimulated and encouraged in every way possible. The grant which they asked for from the Chancellor of the Exchequer would not be unproductive; it would repay those who gave it and those who benefited from it in the gain which would result to the health and prosperity of agriculture, and, consequently of the community at large.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said that he intervened in the debate because the Rothampsted experimental station happened to be in the division which he represented. He wished to add one more appeal to those already made for something to be done to assist such institutions as that of Rothampsted. The work carried on there for a great many years had been the result of voluntary effort, and large sums of money had been placed at the disposal of the private trustees for scientific research; but large as the income of that institution was, it was far too small for the efficient extension of the experiments now being carried out. In fact, the institution was crippled by want of financial assistance, and a grant of £2,000 a year would enable the excellent staff, which was thoroughly organised, to double the usefulness of the institution. He was sure that every encouragement should be given to public authorities such as county councils and others to forward educational work in connection with research and experiment, because voluntary effort was not sufficient by itself to overtake the increasing claims for the application of science to the industry of agriculture. In the county with which he was connected they had such voluntary efforts as that at Rothampsted which were so efficient, so ungrudgingly generous, and so well adapted to the work, that it seemed to him that such institutions should have the first claim upon any public money which might be placed at the disposal of the President of the Board of Agriculture for this purpose. Facts had been brought before the House in relation to foreign countries and agricultural research. They had been told that America had been doing this, Germany that, and that Denmark and other countries were also taking efficient steps in this direction, while we were lamentably behind in the race. At the present time, however, there was no doubt that farmers were far more scientific, far more intelligent and better educated, and showed a great deal more enterprise than was usually associated with their class. Therefore no moment could possibly be more opportune than the present for such an undertaking to be started, and he hoped and trusted that the Board of Agriculture might see their way to assist in this work. Sir John Lawes devoted, as previous speakers had said, £100,000 to endow the institution at Rothampsted, and the usefulness of that institution had been recently increased by an added department, for the expenditure in connection with which they and the county of Hertford as a whole had to thank the munificence of his hon. friend the Member for Windsor. If such a grant as he had ventured to mention could be made to Rothampsted he was sure the whole country would derive a very distinct benefit from it. He would like to illustrate the importance of this subject by reference to a single farm in Hertfordshire. The farm consisted of about 400 acres, and upon it crops of wheat and nothing else had been grown year after year for twenty-four years, and every year with the exception of one at a profit. The reason for the success of this particular farm in the growth of wheat during a period in which foreign competition had been exceedingly strong, the supply of wheat very large, and in many cases the prices extremely low, was merely the result of scientific farming. The farmer in question analysed his soils, and having done that from time to time had always restored to the soil those properties which he had to take out of it in growing his wheat. The result had been, that instead of growing wheat at a loss, he had in all that long course of years, except one, done it at a profit. He merely mentioned this case as a typical one, and as an illustration of what it was possible to do in this country. There was no place in the world where such fine crops of wheat could be grown as in this country, or which could produce so many bushels to the acre as the English soil, and many other farmers might follow on the lines he had indicated if there were other valuable institutions throughout the country such as that at Rothampsted, to undertake the work of analysis and advice from time to time. He need not enlarge upon the claims of agriculture, which was the largest and unquestionably the oldest industry in the country, and at the present time, as we had by the power of steam made the ocean to unite the land, whereas formerly we used to consider that the water separated the land, it was doubly important that the people of this country should have a prospect of meeting a competition such as we had never hitherto known in agricultural products. It was under these circumstances that we should be quite abreast or ahead of the times in regard to agriculture, in the same way as he hoped we might long maintain a position ahead of other countries in other industrial pursuits. He trusted that the hon. Baronet who took such a lively interest in agriculture would place matters before the President of the Board of Agriculture, so that the institution of Rothampsted, which was very near London, might be shown to have a real claim upon him. If any hon. Member would care to go a little journey in order to visit the institution he would receive an abundant welcome, and he would see specimens of the beneficial work which was carried on by this most enterprising institution.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.) said he wished at once to acknowledge the able and uncontroversial manner in which this subject had been presented by the hon. Member who brought this Motion before the House, and he could assure him that no one could be more anxious than he was to see larger sums of money applied to experiment and research. Though he knew it was only a form of words which was used by the hon. Member, in saying that agricultural research was suffering from neglect of the Government, he should say that it was not suffering from that cause, but it had rather suffered in the past from want of appreciation on the part of the public of these scientific investigations. He agreed with what was said by the noble Lord the Member for Thirsk, that agriculturists were now appreciating and becoming aware of the importance, not only of investigation and demonstration, but of experimental works. He could not help thinking that the reason why this House had during the last two Parliaments neglected to provide sufficient or larger funds for carrying on experimental works had been the fact that the public outside, and Members inside, the House had not brought the question forward and pressed it upon the Treasury. Hon. Members might be sure that it was only forcing an open door as regarded the Board of Agriculture, but it was rather a different matter as regarded the Treasury; but he thought the failure to provide more money was not so much the fault of the Treasury, as of the public outside, and of Members of this House who had not adequately brought the question before the country. He could not charge his recollection with a debate on this subject upon the Address with the object of obtaining a further grant from the Treasury. It was perfectly true that enough had not been done in the past, but it was also true that the Board of Agriculture, with its poor means, had done its best to make experiments and assist experimentors. He agreed with the hon. Member for Windsor that their object should be to see if they could not get a much greater output from the land by an intelligent use of fertilisers and artificial manures. As the hon. Member had said, this was a free trade Government, and he agreed that it was especially the duty of a free trade Government who were opposed to artificial prices to find out the best artificial manures and fertilisers, and the manner in which they should be applied, so that they could be used where they were most required, because everybody acquainted with agriculture knew that very much depended upon the soil and the qualities of the land. Although he would like to see a larger staff in connection with the Board of Agriculture, still it must not be forgotten that there was a scientific staff there which had done a great deal of good and useful work. Dr. Somervill, who had left them to return to Cambridge, had done a great deal of useful work. He was succeeded by another Cambridge man, Mr. Middleton, who was following in his footsteps; and agriculturists might be certain that they would continue to get very valuable information from the Department. They were not entirely lacking in information, but still they might do more if they had a larger staff. The hon. Member for Windsor had said that they had no laboratory for the investigation of diseases, but he would remind him that there was a laboratory at Kew, which had as one of its objects the investigation of fungoid diseases and the diseases of trees. As to clover sickness they were going to make a grant of £300 to Rothampstead for the investigation of disease. He would be the last one to deprecate the work done at Rothampstead, but he must enter a *caveat* against its being thought that that was the only institution where a great and useful work was being done. There were colleges in Yorkshire, and in other places doing good work on the same lines, and if the Government made a grant to one college other colleges would say they ought to have a grant, and other districts would point out that they had not such a great endowment as Rothampstead had from the Lawes Fund, and therefore they more required help than Rothampstead. The whole question was one of convincing the public and this House of the necessity for this expenditure, and he hoped the House and the Treasury also would very shortly be convinced. Experiment and demonstration were apart from ordinary farming, but he knew of one experimental farm where the results had been unsatisfactory because those conducting the investigations did not content themselves with experiment and demonstration, but tried to make a large profit on the farm and succeeded in neither object. Then with regard to the feeding of cattle; during 1905–6, the Board had spent some £205 in experiments regarding the effect of manures on mutton. Certain lands were manured and sheep were fed on them and the value of the manures ascertained in regard to quality and quantity of the meat when turned into mutton. With regard to the statement that only £400 had been spent in experimental research, more than three times that sum was spent on such and other experiments as he had indicated, the effect of manure upon mutton and wheat. But in addition there had been scientific experiments with regard to the diseases of cattle. In-

1905–6 the Board had spent £2,000 on the investigation of abortion in cattle—a matter of great importance to dairy farmers. Altogether, the Board had received a sum of £4,000 in respect of inquiry into this matter, and, as a result of the investigations that had been made, it was hoped that, before very long, they might be able to do something to get rid of this most terrible scourge. As to the question of a further grant for experimental research, he could not help thinking that one reason why agriculture had not received as much support from the Treasury as other countries received from their Governments had been that this country had, perhaps, relied rather too much on that private munificence of which the hon. Member for Windsor was himself a striking instance. On the other hand, it might very fairly be said that there was now a growing demand among agriculturists for larger grants from the Treasury; and the House might rest assured that the President of the Board of Agriculture would make representations to the Treasury as to the general feeling expressed in this debate. He could only hope that that would have a good result, and that in the future larger resources might be placed at the disposal of the Department for further agricultural research.

Mr. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) expressed satisfaction at the very sympathetic tone of the hon. Baronet's speech. He regretted, however, that there had been no representative of the Treasury present; possibly the Treasury had felt that discretion was the better part of valour. On such occasions as this, however, the Board of Agriculture did not do itself justice, for, its grants being made in driblets, the House could not fully appreciate the amount of work it actually did. But in many ways the Board might do more with the money at its disposal than it did at present. Personally, he much doubted the wisdom of the expenditure on leaflets. He remembered a very expensive leaflet being circulated dealing with the habits of the domestic sparrow, and he could not help thinking that that was not a good way of spending money. He would also press upon the hon. Gentleman that any further grants should not extend in the direction of increasing scientific investigation by the Department itself. He knew it was necessary that every Department should possess scientific advisers, but he drew a sharp distinction between the scientific men who were there for the purpose of giving advice to the Department and a scientific Department working inside the Department itself and over which there would not be so much control as if the work were being carried on outside. He believed there was nothing the Treasury dreaded so much as a raid of scientific and artistic people. This debate, however, had shown very clearly that there was a strong demand for a further grant being made in connection with this subject. Personally he did not greatly fear that the grant required would be very large, because it was clear that, from money granted by county councils and from private efforts, an immense amount of work was already being done, and it was quite possible that with comparatively little assistance from Imperial sources that work might be largely co-ordinated. At the present moment there was a great desire on the part of farmers to avail themselves of the information and the knowledge that could be placed at their disposal by such bodies as the County Council Colleges and the Royal Agricultural Society and others. He could only hope that in the absence of any representative of the Treasury the hon. Gentleman would bring pressure to bear on his colleagues, and would approach the Chancellor of the Exchequer and inform him of the very strong feeling which existed in all quarters of the House in favour of further help being afforded to these very important agricultural colleges.

*Mr. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley) said he rose for the purpose of making a suggestion, having had some experience in this matter. He had visited a number of the splendid colleges which existed not only in this country but in Canada, and he was also acquainted with the work carried on in Ireland as well as with the dairy work carried on in Holland. The most important thing he had seen was the work done in Canada, and he desired to suggest to the Minister for Agriculture a way of extending the usefulness of these agricultural colleges. While he did not deprecate any appeal for the extension of scientific research, he thought we should do here what was done in Canada, namely, take means to let the farmers know the results of the various experiments which were made by the Board of Agriculture. The information could be disseminated either through the local newspapers, or by other means of publication. He knew that a number of valuable pamphlets were issued by the Board of Agriculture, and these could be procured at a cheap rate—in fact some were given away. Though he made no reflection on the intelligence of farmers, it was desirable that the information collected by the Department should be pushed upon them. It was necessary to impress upon them the value of the information, and to make known to them the results obtained from experiment and research, in such a way that they could not avoid being aware of them. He took it that there were ways of bringing the matter before the various local newspapers so that farmers in their own homes would know what work had been done in these splendid colleges.

*MR. BARNARD (Kidderminster) said he only wanted to add a word to the appeal made to the hon. Baronet. With reference to what had been done in foreign countries, he ventured to think that those interested in agriculture might judiciously look at home, and ask the hon. Baronet to represent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer what had happened in the last three years in relation to the Irish and the English Boards of Agriculture. Last year the English Board of Agriculture received from public funds £128,000; whilst the Irish Board received no less than £354,000. In the last three years the English Board had received £388,000 and the Irish Board £1,033,000. He ventured to suggest that the hon. Baronet might very properly represent to the Treasury that in this country at all events agriculture was entitled to much more generous treatment than the figures he had quoted suggested. He belonged to the Cambridge University Agricultural Board of Studies, and he was aware that the Treasury or Board of Agriculture had given them a small sum of money, but that they were able to conduct their work at all was due to the munificence of one of the City Companies, and also to the generosity of Sir Walter Gilbey. A great many farmers clubs and associations had arisen because of their anxiety about the tariff question, and what had been the result? Many of them had turned their attention to other subjects; and the Board of Agriculture would only be doing an act of justice as well as wisdom if they were to carry out some of these researches and experiments about which the farmers of the country were anxious to a higher degree than he had ever known before, though he lived in an agricultural neighbourhood. He hoped the hon. Baronet would put very strongly to the Treasury the general tenour of the remarks which had been made about a subject on which there was singular unanimity.

*MR. HELME (Lancashire, Lancaster) said the experiments made by the Board in past years were certainly based on sound scientific principles, and if money could be devoted by the State to the further study of the interests of agriculture, and to the development of our food supplies generally, he was satisfied that no wiser or more remunerative expenditure could be undertaken by the Government. Scientific research applied not only to the land but to the sea. The county councils had done good and sound work out of the money which the ratepayers had provided. He had some knowledge of that done by the Lancashire County Council, of which he was an alderman, and that body and the adjacent county boroughs took not only an interest in the development of food supplies on land but looked to the sea, and sought to increase the food supplies from that source. At the present time an effort was being made by the Lancashire and Western Districts Fisheries Association to secure a grant from the Treasury, through the Minister of Agriculture, in order that they might be able to carry out the work which the Department was desirous of doing. Under the direction of Sir Thomas Elliott they had reached a position which required the finding of more money for the development of the agricultural work. It was difficult, he knew, to obtain money from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he would suggest that the sum of £12,500 which was voted for the year ending next March for the scientific investigation of the North Sea fisheries, would not be required after the series of years ending in June next, for which the money had been voted, had expired. The £12,500 would be free after the next payment, and he urged that they should have from the Chancellor of the Exchequer at the end of the year the amount which would be available. He begged to support the earnest appeal made on both sides of the House that scientific research, in regard to these matters, at any rate, should have more generous consideration at the hands of the Treasury, and that the Agricultural Department, which was doing such an admirable work, should be allowed greater resources for its better prosecution than they had been afforded in the past. The development of our food resources ought not to suffer through parsimony, but should be regarded with generous consideration by the Treasury.

*MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth) desired to say a few words on this question, because he had for a great many years lived in the colony of New Zealand, where he had done his best to advance agriculture by bringing more land into cultivation. It was more than ever necessary that information on agricultural matters should be more widely distributed in a practical form which could be easily understood since a Bill for the encouragement of small holdings was promised in the King's Speech. The fault he had always found with the Board of Agriculture was that, while they took the greatest pains to obtain information and conduct experiments for the improvement of agriculture, the results of their labours were not brought home to the small cultivators in a form which they could readily assimilate and turn to practical uses. The mover of this Resolution desired to have more money spent not only upon existing establishments, but also in the direction of creating in different parts of the country new establishments which would bring home to the small holder and farmers generally in some form which they could turn to practical use the results of the experience of scientific men and private owners. The difficulty he found was that whilst there was an immense amount of information available the farmers about him were not generally aware that they could obtain it from the Board of Agriculture. If in different parts of the country such establishments as his hon. friend had suggested were erected and encouraged by the Government, it would in many cases enable the small farmers to make their holdings a success instead of a failure. He most cordially supported the resolution which had been moved by his hon. friend.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said the country was entering upon a period of more acute foreign competition in agricultural products than it had ever yet experienced. The country had already suffered from Danish competition in butter; it would have to face an equally keen competition in milk from the same country. He mentioned that as an example to show how essential it was that we should be able to compete with foreign countries upon an advantageous footing. It was urgently necessary that we should at once give attention to the questions which had been raised, as well as many other aspects of agriculture, in order to make land products more remunerative than they now were. A few years ago for a short period a scientific policy was adopted by the Board of Agriculture. The late Mr. Hanbury knew the needs of the situation, but unfortunately he was only a very short time at the head of that department, and the start which he made in that direction should now be carried a great deal further. No doubt a good deal of money had been spent by county and other authorities on experiments, but much of the expenditure had been entirely thrown away. Some of the county councils had done admirable work, and experimental farms like the Northumberland County Council farm had done a real service to agriculture. He did not, however, think that sufficient practical object lessons were being provided. Agriculturists would never be properly equipped to meet competition until the experiments which were being carried on by county councils and the State were more fruitful in practical object-lessons, for those connected with the land took no real interest in any new departure until they saw good results actually obtained. In nearly every European country the Government had set an example which the Government of this country had not followed in regard to scientific agriculture. Neither in agriculture nor in sylviculture had the Government encouraged experiments. He did not advocate any very large expenditure on the part of the Treasury at the start, but he did advocate the organisation of a scientific department of the Board of Agriculture, composed of experts, and controlled more or less by an advisory committee of practical men. The Board had done some excellent educative work of late years, but what was needed was practical work. They could not hope to get the best results out of the division of the soil unless they instructed agriculturists in the learning necessary for their success. The county councils of England had had more money for agricultural experiments than the authorities in Scotland, and although Scotland had not been behind in either agriculture or sylviculture the help they got from the State was far less than that obtained by any other part of the kingdom. In Scotland they practically depended upon the agricultural colleges, and for every pound they raised themselves they got a pound from the Government. He did not think it would be necessary to press this Amendment. Not long ago, when it was said that agriculture was dying for want of relief from rates, he indicated that if, instead of spending £3,000,000 upon what he called doles, £30,000 a year had been spent upon agricultural research and the providing of useful object lessons for agriculturists, it would have done far more good. He hoped that this matter would receive the serious attention of the Government. The success of the land policy upon which the Government were going to embark would depend a good deal upon the competence of those who were placed upon the land to cultivate it to better advantage. The working of small holdings was more difficult than the pastoral occupations in which men were now mostly engaged. He believed that the farmers of this country understood stock and breeding and rearing better than the farmers of any other country, but in dairy-work, co-operation, marketing, the putting of products on the market in the best possible condition, and fruit-growing they had almost everything to learn. We were far behind foreign countries in that matter. We could not expect to get the best results without to the fullest extent learning what was necessary for the successful carrying on of agriculture. Hon. Members who believed in a large measure of agricultural reform were bound to see that the less instructed portion of the community, who would have to do the greater part of the work of cultivation, as well as farmers, received proper instruction. It was absolutely essential to the success of any comprehensive scheme of agrarian reform that we should have that thorough system of agricultural instruction in this country which we now lacked, and he trusted the Government would give a practical lead.

*COLONEL WILLIAMS (Dorsetshire, W.) said that in the discussion which had taken place they had rather lost sight of the Amendment which stated—

> "That the interests of agriculture are suffering from the neglect of your Majesty's Ministers materially to encourage scientific research."

They were very ready to establish experimental farms and to encourage co-operative societies, but while these were all very well in their way he believed that in many cases they did not lay a good enough foundation. A great deal more scientific knowledge of the basis of agriculture was what was wanted. More laboratory work was what was really required in this country. He hoped that the hon. Member for Somerset would not be led astray by the fact that the debate had taken the form of a discussion of general agricultural matters, but that he would remember that what was asked for was a small sum for scientific research. From £20,000 to £30,000 would be quite sufficient, he believed, for laboratory work and for bringing the knowledge gained home to agriculturists.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said they were all indebted to his hon. friend for having brought the subject of agricultural research before the House. He wished, however, to bring a matter to the notice of the hon. Gentleman representing the Board of Agriculture which had not yet been mentioned. A great many valuable experiments were being conducted by private individuals—by large farmers. He knew several large tenant farmers who had done a great deal of experimenting and were perfectly willing to impart their knowledge, but they were not encouraged to do so. He thought if the Board of Agriculture, quite apart from research on their own account—though he strongly urged that too—would take some steps to obtain this knowledge acquired by the few and make it available to the many a great deal might be done. In the county from which he came he knew cases where most valuable and costly experiments had been made by individual farmers respecting the cultivation of hops, their manurial treatment, and so on. They were perfectly willing to allow the knowledge which they had acquired by experiments to be available for the whole of England. He thought he was right in saying that he had never come across a single case of a man who desired to keep the advantage of his experiments to himself. There was, however, no ready means of making that knowledge available without incurring great expense which they could not be expected to bear. He thought the Board of Agriculture might easily and without expense collect such information as had been obtained, gather together the results of scientific experiments, and make that knowledge and scientific research available for those who had not personally been able to conduct experiments. He hoped the hon. Baronet would give attention to this side of the subject, as well as to the equally important side of research undertaken at the instance of the Board of Agriculture.

*Mr. THEODORE TAYLOR said that quite lately two or three illustrations had come under his notice of the very great value of experimental research in agriculture. It was well known to many Members of the House that Lancashire was interested in the production of cotton within the Empire. It so happened that a gentleman from Lancashire, a lecturer at the Agricultural College, Cairo, for some time, was sent by the Indian Government to India some years ago and had been the means, by using Egyptian seed, of developing in Sindh a very valuable cotton—a cotton twice as valuable as the ordinary cotton. The crop sold for £4,000 last autumn in Bombay and was resold in Liverpool for £9,000. This was the result of crossing various kinds of cotton seed so as to produce cotton specially appropriate for the climate of India. The growth of good cotton had been given up as hopeless in India for many years, and the success of this one experiment alone opened up a large future for cotton to the people of that country. Similarly in Canada the possible wheat growing area had been enormously enlarged during the last few years, by the results of the experimental research work carried on by the Canadian Government farms, at, he believed, Indianhead and Brandon, where they had found, by crossing Siberian and Russian seed, that wheat would grow in regions given up as hopeless heretofore. Taking another illustration near home, it was a truly remarkable circumstance, and one full of meaning by way of illustrating the force of the present discussion, that no less than a hundred gallons of milk on the average had been added to the supply given by the cows of Denmark as the result of the three processes of weeding out cows which gave little milk or did not give good milk, attention to breeding, and scientific attention to feeding. By these means the annual yield of milk was increased by a hundred gallons per cow and at less annual cost per cow for feeding. He thought that what was done in Denmark could be done here. Some farmers from Yorkshire, who had been taken to Denmark by a friend of his, were simply amazed at the result derived from co-operation, and the scientific treatment of the cattle. In the vale from which they came, there were 7,000 cows, and it had been pointed out that if the yield from these cows was increased by 100 gallons a year at 6d. or 7d. a gallon, it would put £20,000 a year into the pockets of the farmers. Again he thought that a little more attention ought to be paid to the fisheries on our coasts. A little more money spent on the development of the fisheries would be repaid manyfold. It had been said that a man who made two blades of grass to grow where only one grew formerly was a public benefactor. That had been the experience of every country where science had been applied to agriculture. It had resulted in the enrichment of the human race and an increase in the sum total of their wealth.

MR. J. F. MASON asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) moved to add the words: "But humbly regrets that His Majesty's gracious speech does not include proposals for repealing the penal clauses of the Vaccination Acts." He said that at the end of last session a petition to the Government asking for the repeal of the penal clauses of the Vaccination Acts was signed by 174 members. He believed that twice that number of members were in sympathy with the object of the petition, but, for some reason or other, they did not wish to sign the memorial, although they promised to support the object in view when it came before the House. He believed that the President of the Local Government Board would not take a less statesmanlike view of this question than the President of the Local Government Board in 1898, who declared his belief that no responsible Minister would be in favour of compulsory vaccination. The latter gentleman was, however, no longer in that House and had gone back from his declaration, because he by an Order enforced compulsory vaccination by taking away from the guardians the liberty they had previously enjoyed of deciding for or against prosecutions of anti-vaccinators. The result was that the hon. Gentleman became a victim to the anti-vaccinators. His own belief was that a large proportion of the members of this House owed their position to the energy of the anti-vaccinators. [Ironical laughter.] Hon. Members might laugh. He was not an old member of the House, but he was an old campaigner; and he knew how many enthusiastic men lent their energy in support of the repeal of the penal clauses of the Vaccination Acts, and if these men were disappointed at the action taken by the Government in regard to this matter, he believed that it would go hard with the Liberal Party at the next election. Not that the anti-vaccinators were revengeful, but they would lose that enthusiasm in support of the Liberal candidates without which victory could not be gained. There were on the Ministerial Bench right hon. Gentleman who had declared against vaccination altogether, not merely compulsory vaccination. [Cries of "Name."] He did not wish to single them out and mention their names and so put them on a pinnacle of glory. Why was it that they wanted to abolish the penal clauses of the Vaccination Acts? It was because they had conscientious objection to them; and during the last fifty years large numbers of men had paid fines and endured obloquy because they wished to keep pure the blood of their children. That did not seem to him the right course to pursue. Compulsory vaccination was as severely, and more severely, enforced now than it was before the passing of the recent Act. If a man went for an exemption, it was very doubtful whether he would get one. To apply for one meant the expenditure of a great deal of time. How could a poor labourer, whose wages were 15s. or 16s. a week, afford to give up a day's work and pay a shilling or two in railway fares, only to find when he got before the Court that the magistrates would insult him and tell him he was a fool, and that he might or might not get the exemption after all. It must be remembered that this sacrifice was thrown upon him at a time when he had been put to great expense through the birth of a child. If he were certain that he could get the exemption, he would save up and go before the Court, but, in consequence of the uncertainty, in many cases he did not at present do so and his child was vaccinated against his will. But at present there was always the question of whether "Mr. so and so" would be on the bench, his views against conscientious objectors being known; therefore compulsory vaccination was practically universal. Again, in the administration of the Vaccination Acts, there was a tendency on the part of the magistrates throughout the country where the Act said the fine should not exceed 20s. to inflict that as a minimum penalty, as in the case of a labourer at Spilsby the other day who was twice imprisoned for one month because he was unable to pay the fines and cost. That sum was like a fine of £1,000 upon a wealthy man or of £200 or £300 upon a Member of this House. There was one easy way to get vaccination without compulsion and that was to let the doctors go round and persuade people to have their children vaccinated, and if hon. Gentlemen could see their way to bring that reform about it would give greater satisfaction than any reform which had previously been passed. They had had, the day before, a striking discussion, in the course of which it was said how sad it was to see old people at the end of their lives treated as old rags and left to rot; but how much more sad it was that the child should be poisoned in the cradle! It was, in fact, poisoned by law. It was one of the most extraordinary, and even ludicrous, laws ever passed. The word "vaccination" was French for "cow-poxing," and matter taken from a cow or calf ill with the disease of cow-pox was put into the blood of human beings by the process which was called "vaccination," because the Franco-Latin word had a nicer sound to our English ears than the word "cow-poxing." He had read of a great many extraordinary things in different parts of the world; of people who had bits of wood in their lips or ears and who tied up their toes; but of all the extraordinary things he had ever heard of the most extraordinary thing was the opening of the skin and putting under it pus from a diseased cow. The cowpox which was used for vaccination was derived from pustules on the teats of a cow which was ill with the disease known as cowpox. This disease was not like any other kind of pox, because it was not found on the male, but only on the teats of cows. This stuff, when put into the blood of a human being, was capable of producing a chancre which experts had found in some cases indistinguishable from the chancre of syphilis. Jenner had tried it, and found it so dangerous that he gave it up. He also said it was useless as a preventive of smallpox. He had tried it, and found that people who had had cowpox were liable to take smallpox. He therefore invented another kind of poxing. He got matter from the heels of a horse ill with a disgusting disease known as grease. This matter he inserted in a cow, and from pustules got as the result of such insertion he inoculated some people, and then said that they were safe from smallpox, and he wrote a pamphlet describing this invention of his, and pointing out that the ordinary cowpox was no use as a prophylactic. However, the London surgeons preferred the cowpox, and Jenner was forced to accept their view, and he did, notwithstanding that he had written a pamphlet to prove that cowpox was useless. But this cowpox from horse-grease pox—this horrible disease-producing filth—was the stuff that under the Vaccination Acts was to be put into the blood of babies. But the strain had given out, and no one knew what was the origin of the stuff now used for inoculating the calves at the Government pus-producing works. They went to Germany, and bought a stock from the Germans. As long as it was made in Germany it seeemed to be good enough for our authorities. We had our own calves and the pus for vaccinating was taken from them, but the originating stock came from Germany. Scientific opinion had demanded that the right sort of stuff should be used, but the Local Government Board did not know where the Germans got the stuff from; they thought that one sort of muck was as good as another. It was said that it was necessary for the human race that we should be vaccinated. But the human race had existed for a long time and some of us were rather proud of our ancestry. They read with reverence the writings attributed to Moses and David and of others greater than they; of the great men and conquerors, Alexander, Cæsar, Demosthenes, and others; Nelson, Wellington, and Napoleon, Shakespeare, Milton, Spenser, and others: were those men vaccinated? If the human race produced those men with the blood that God made without the aid of pus from a diseased cow, why should it now not do the same? Were the Ministers so convinced that they were right that they should make this compulsory experiment? They had not studied the question. They got their opinion from medical men, most of whom so far as we could find had not studied the question themselves. This was perhaps the most serious question that the House could discuss, because, though a temporary evil might afterwards be removed, yet if the whole blood of a nation was poisoned an injury was inflicted that nothing could repair He was quite certain that a three days' full dress debate upon this question would settle the fate of vaccination for ever. But pro-vaccinators, as they knew perfectly well, could not stand full discussion. Some people said that smallpox was prevented by vaccination, but even so, was not the price paid much too high? If they took the period of sixteen years from 1838 to 1853 inclusive, immediately preceding the Compulsory Vaccination Act, they found the average annual death-rate from smallpox per million living in England and Wales to be about 417. As every one knew, this was a period when sanitation was much below the present standard, and the deaths from all causes during that period averaged about 22,000 per million living per annum, as compared with about 16,000 per million living in the year 1904. But if they considered the effect of the illness of vaccination, they found that the number of births in a population of 34,000,000 was about 950,000 a year, or about 28,000 per million persons living. If each of those 28,000 children was vaccinated, it would be ill for approximately one month, which was about the same as if 2,300 children were ill for twelve months each. So that every year there would be per million living the equivalent of 2,300 children ill the whole time, and since life without health was not worth having, the mere illness of vaccination was equal to nearly six times the death-rate from smallpox in England and Wales during the sixteen years before vaccination was compulsory. But the effect of vaccination was not limited to the ordinary illness, because many of the children were killed by it, and others were injured for life. There was a society 100 years ago which started for the purpose of encouraging vaccination and offered to pay £5 5s. to anybody who took smallpox after vaccination, but they had to pay so much that the society had to give up. About the year 1804, Dr. William Bowley collected 500 cases of persons who had had smallpox after vaccination, some of them very badly. It was said that a person could not have smallpox twice, but Dr. Jenner himself collected 1,000 cases in which persons had had smallpox twice, which proved conclusively that vaccination did not do what it professed to do. If anyone read the article of Dr. Crichton in the Encyclopædia Britannica on vaccination, they would learn that it was not only dangerous but useless. They must not look at the tenth edition of the Encyclopædia, where the article was written by a pro-vaccinator, but at the ninth edition, where they would find the article of Dr. Creighton. Figures published by the Registrar - General showed that since vaccination was made compulsory in 1853, the deaths of children under one year old from syphilis had increased fourfold by the year 1875. It has been established by surgeons of the highest repute, that that horrible disease, syphilis, was produced by vaccination, not only in isolated instances, but in numerous cases. Therefore, arm-to-arm vaccination, practised for 100 years, had been given up, and matter from a diseased calf, called "calf-lymph," was substituted. But the use of calf-lymph was bad. There was the case of Donovan, the soldier, vaccinated with "pure glycerinated calf-lymph" by the Government vaccinator. He was a fine healthy young man, but he died in a few weeks, rotting to pieces. There were two fine healthy young fellows, new recruits, vaccinated last autumn with "pure glycerinated calf-lymph." The medical certificate of the first who died gave "blood poison" as the cause of death. That was quite true; vaccination was blood poisoning. But when the second one died they thought it was time to change the name of the disease, although, as a matter of fact, the cause was the same, so the medical men told the Minister for War that the death was due to scarlet fever. If they had read Dr. Allbutt's book on medicine, they would have known that vaccination produced symptoms resembling those of scarlet fever, and to pretend that this recruit died of scarlet fever showed how hard up they were to defend this horrible system. Would the Government go on enforcing this process, would they go on enforcing this one cause of unnecessary suffering, which was a hundred times more horrible than the disease it was intended to prevent? Smallpox, properly treated, was one of the most harmless of diseases. Dr. Smiley, of Matlock Bath, wrote during the smallpox epidemic of 1871–2, regretting to read of the numerous deaths from smallpox, and said—

> "It is a most harmless disease if properly treated. I have treated hundreds of cases without a single fatality."

In the twenty years ending 1904 there were rather more than 12,000 deaths from smallpox in this country, and out of that 12,000 there were 3,000 put down as unvaccinated cases. That did not seem to show that there was much advantage in vaccination. The return of the Metropolitan Asylums Board for the years 1901–2 showed that 70 per cent of the cases of smallpox were admittedly vaccinated, and the death rate was 17 per cent., the same death rate as before vaccination was known—proving absolutely that vaccination had no effect in reducing the death rate. At the London Smallpox Hospital in the years 1888–91 100 per cent. of the cases were vaccinated. Among re-vaccinated soldiers, out of 69,000 in twenty years, 1,149 took the smallpox and 113 died, showing that there was no salvation in re-vaccination. Neither vaccination nor re-vaccination was of any use. In the year 1871–2, when this country was thoroughly well vaccinated, there were 42,000 deaths from smallpox, the worst epidemic of the century. As a matter of fact the death-rate from smallpox entirely depended upon the treatment of the disease. A scientific man, not a doctor, tried a special treatment, with ointment, and was laughed at, but the treatment was now supported by a writer in the medical world as the most scientific way of treating the disease. In the Gloucester Hospital, during an epidemic, the death rate was 50 per cent., but when the hospital was reformed the death rate come down to 10 per cent. In the London hospitals, when crowded, the death rate was 16 per cent.; in Leeds, which was not crowded, it was 5 per cent. In Leicester, when the hospitals were not crowded the death rate was only 4 or 5 per cent., but Fielden with his ointment only lost 2 per cent. of his cases. As a matter of fact we had very little smallpox in the country at the present time, and, if they were to believe the pro-vaccinators, the bulk of the country was unvaccinated, because it was the theory that no man was vaccinated who had not been re-vaccinated within the last ten years. There were 25,000,000 of people in England and Wales to-day unvaccinated, yet practically we were safe from smallpox as long as we observed the laws of health. There was no object in vaccination; no good results from it; there were great dangers, and it was contrary to the spirit of liberty to force it on the people. In view of the hopes formed at the last general election, he trusted that His Majesty's Government would declare that there was to be no more vaccination.

*MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough) seconded the Amendment on the ground that the present system of compulsory vaccination was not so effective in checking smallpox as to justify compulsion. In support of this view he quoted, from a speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin to a deputation on 14th January, 1903, when he was President of the Local Government Board, the endorsement of a statement by a member of the deputation that primary vaccination by itself was really almost a farce, and that unless repeated at proper intervals it was not a safeguard. He asked the House to consider the present state of the law permitting exemptions, not according to the physical capacity of the child, but to the mental habit of the father, into which the magistrate made inquiry. If vaccination was not good for the child of a father of a certain mental habit, was it right to assume that it was specially good for the rest of the children of the kingdom? The law as it at present stood was a farce and absurdity, and he trusted that they would have a satisfactory answer from the President of the Local Government Board.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words 'but humbly regret that His Majesty's gracious Speech does not include proposals for repealing the penal clauses of the Vaccination Act.'"—(*Mr. Lupton*).

*The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): I intervene at this stage because I desire to make an appeal to the House to allow us to finish this subject to-night. I wish to remind hon. Members that the hon. Member for Sleaford withdrew a Motion on this subject last session, and said he did not press it because of the sympathetic answer he had received. That answer dealt with several objections to the present system of vaccination—its cost, its methods, and the differential treatment to which rich and poor applicants for exemption were subjected by magistrates and by stipendiaries in London and the country. On the last occasion I promised several things. In the first place I said the Local Government Board would insist on a reduction of the cost of vaccination, which I think is disproportionately high. This promise I have met by the preparation of a vaccination order to be circulated in a few days with the object of reducing the cost. But the main inducement that led to the withdrawal of the Motion on the previous occasion was a definite pledge that something should be done to substitute for the existing form of exemption certificate something simpler and more in consonance with the dictates of commonsense, and kindly consideration for all classes of applicants. I am here to-night to say that I intend to adhere to that promise by the introduction of a Bill which I intend shortly to introduce, and with the assistance of the House to pass before the session is over.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): Will it apply to Scotland?

*Mr. JOHN BURNS: That is a matter for my right hon. friend the Secretary of Scotland. In my judgment vaccination in England and Wales is not compulsory. I say that because it is a fact. Parents can now upon application to a magistrate obtain a certificate of exemption, although they have to do this under conditions which are intolerable and which I hope to abolish in the Bill I have promised. Applicants to the magistrates have been subjected to irregular and differential treatment, and uniformity of administration has not been secured under the present law. It is absolutely impossible to get uniformity of treatment in consequence of the composition of the magisterial benches and other causes which I need not now go into. The promise I have made I will redeem at an early date by the introduction of a Bill which will substitute a simple, effective form of statutory declaration for the existing form of certificate; and thus uniformity will be secured and much trouble and irritation avoided. I therefore hope that the Amendment will be withdrawn.

Mr. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) asked whether the Government accepted the view which had been put forward upon this question of vaccination. He would remind the House that some 150 or 200 Members of the House of Commons had signed a memorial in opposition to compulsory vaccination. He hoped hon. Members would not accept a Motion of this kind without very careful consideration.

And, it being Eleven of the clock, the Debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

Adjourned at one minute after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 15th February, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILL PETITIONS (STANDING ORDERS NOT COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the Petitions for the following Bills, the Standing Orders have not been complied with, viz.:—Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (General Powers); Barry Railway; Boston Spa Gas; Rawtenstall Corporation; South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways.

Ordered, that the Report be referred to the Select Committee on Standing Orders.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour, from Braintree; Burgess Hill; Danehill (two); East Grinstead; Horsted Keynes (two); Kelvedon; Totteridge; and Uckfield; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).

Copy ordered, "of Statements for each month of the year 1907 of the number of paupers relieved in England and Wales (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 69, of Session 1906)."—(*Dr. Macnamara.*)

GREENWICH OBSERVATORY.

Copy presented, of Report of Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the London County Council Generating Station at Greenwich in its relation to the Royal Observatory [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION.

Accounts presented, for the year ended 31st March, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 16.]

WARLIKE OPERATIONS (KILLED AND WOUNDED).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 29th May, 1906; *Mr. Morton*]; to lie upon the Table.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Copy presented, of the Parliamentary Elections Act, 1906 (No. 41) [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 17.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Housing of Officials of the Uganda Railway.

MR. ARMITAGE (Leeds, Central): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any, and, if so, what arrangements have been made to supply the lack of house accommodation as mentioned in the Report of the locomotive superintendent of the Uganda Railway, March, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) I regret to say that it has not yet been found possible to make arrangements to supply the lack of accommodation referred to. Improved accommodation is required not only for the railway officials but also for the other officials of the Protectorate. In view of the limited resources of the Protectorate and its other urgent needs it is not possible to proceed very rapidly in the matter; but a considerable sum has been provided in the Estimates for next year for the improvement of the quarters of the ordinary Government officials.

Railway Servants' Hours of Working.

MR. BELL (Derby): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the state of the hours worked by engine drivers, firemen, and goods and mineral guards during the month of July last, as shown by the Return published this week; if he is aware that on the railways at present the hours worked by these grades are generally sixteen, increasing to thirty hours and upwards per shift of duty; and, in the interest of the safety of the employees and the travelling public, will he call for a Return of the hours worked by engine drivers, firemen, goods and mineral guards, and brakesmen for the month of January last, and take immediate steps to protect the men against the practice of being worked excessive hours.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Yes, Sir. I have carefully considered the Return in question. Those companies for which a high percentage is shown of hours in excess of twelve will be communicated with, and if necessary successive Returns will be obtained from such companies in order to test the steps taken to reduce the percentage. I may point out that the Return for July last, so far as relating to engine drivers, firemen, and goods and mineral guards, shows that, out of the total shifts of duty, those of thirteen hours and over amounted to one in twenty-two. From Returns obtained in consequence of specific complaints under the Act of 1893, I am aware that during the winter there have been on certain lines regrettably numerous instances of excessively long hours, some reaching the length mentioned by my hon. friend, but I have no reason to believe that such long hours can be said to be general. It must be admitted that climatic conditions and congestion of traffic have recently made it very difficult in some districts to avoid long hours, and I have good grounds for thinking that some companies, at all events, are earnestly endeavouring to reduce long hours to a minimum. The Board will certainly not relax their endeavours to secure that end, and I propose to call for a further general Return under the Act of 1889 for an early month.

Irish Inspectors and School Programmes.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can ascertain from the Commissioners of National Education in Ireland if an inspector of schools in Ireland can interfere with a manager in framing a suitable programme without consulting the Commissioners directly on the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Under the rules, managers are at liberty to submit, through the inspectors, for the approval of the Commissioners, alternative programmes of instruction to suit the needs of particular localities. If the hon. Member has any specific case in view, in which it is suggested that undue interference has taken place, the Commissioners will inquire into the matter upon being furnished with the necessary particulars.

Delay in the Inspection of the Marshall Estate, county Kerry.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can ascertain from the Estates Commissioners the cause of delay in the inspection of the Marshall Estate, county Kerry; and whether he can say definitely the date on which such inspection will be made as the estate has been before the Commissioners for a considerable time.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have directed a survey of the boundaries of this estate, which is a large one comprising 5,000 acres. As soon as the survey has been completed inspection will take place.

ADJOURNMENT.

Resolved, That the House, at its rising this day, do adjourn till Monday next.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

POST OFFICE SITES BILL.

Ordered, That the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills do examine the Post Office Sites Bill, with respect to compliance with Standing Orders relative to Private Bills.—(*Mr. Sydney Buxton.*)

NEW BILLS.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

"To enable Women to vote at Parliamentary Elections," presented by Mr. Dickinson; supported by Mr. James Stuart, Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Howard, Mr. Hart-Davies, and Mr. Snowden; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th March, and to be printed. [Bill 8.]

RAILWAYS (CONTRACTS) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Railway and Canal Companies' Rates and Conditions of Conveyance," presented by Mr. Lambton; supported by Mr. Hooper, Sir William Holland, Mr. Abel Smith, Sir Francis Channing, Lord Helmsley, Mr. J. W. Wilson, and Mr. Hyde; to be read a second time upon Friday, 15th March, and to be printed. [Bill 9.]

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister," presented by Sir Brampton Gurdon; supported by Mr. Burt, Sir Joseph Leese, Sir Gilbert Parker, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. MacIver, Sir John Jardine, Mr. Hambro, Sir A. M. Torrance, Mr. Barker, Mr. Eugene Wason, and Mr. Acland; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 10.]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES (METRIC SYSTEM) BILL.

"To render compulsory the use of the system of Weights and Measures commonly known as the Metric System," presented by Mr. B. S. Straus; supported by Sir Henry Norman, Mr. Bonar Law, Sir Charles M'Laren, Sir John Brunner, Sir Christopher Furness, Sir William Holland, Mr. Wolff, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Fenwick, and Mr. Vivian; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 11.]

LAND LAW (IRELAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Land Law (Ireland) Acts," presented by Mr. Hogan; supported by Mr. John Redmond, Mr. Dillon, Mr. Clancy, Captain Donelan, Mr. John Roche, Mr. Kendal O'Brien, and Mr. Vincent Kennedy; to be read a second time upon Friday, 19th April, and to be printed. [Bill 12.]

COAL MINES (EIGHT HOURS) BILL.

"To limit the Hours of Work below ground in Coal Mines," presented by Mr. Walsh; supported by Mr. Glover, Sir Alfred Jacoby, Mr. Enoch Edwards, Mr. William Abraham (Rhondda), Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Joseph Walton, Mr. Hall, Sir Henry Norman, Mr. Yoxall, Mr. John Hope, and Mr. Howell Davies; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 13.]

EDUCATION (PROVISION OF MEALS) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To enable School Boards in Scotland to provide Meals for necessitous school children," presented by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald; supported by Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Tyson Wilson, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Wilkie, Mr. Snowden, Mr. Gill, Mr. Thorne, Mr. M'Crae, and Mr. Halley Stewart; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 14].

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL OPTION) (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To give the ratepayers a direct control of the Liquor Traffic in their respective areas in Scotland; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. Robert Balfour; to be read a second time upon Friday, 26th April, and to be printed. [Bill 15.]

COMPULSORY WEIGHING AND MEASUREMENTS BILL.

"To provide for the Weighing and Measurement of the Material used in the process of Manufacture as well as the product thereof in all iron or steel works, cement works, lime works, and chalk quarries," presented by Mr. G. H. Roberts; supported by Mr. Hodge, Mr. Macpherson, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Thorne, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Glover, Mr. Parker, Mr. John Taylor, and Mr. Wardle; to be read a second time upon Friday, 3rd May, and to be printed. [Bill 16.]

OLD AGE PENSIONS BILL.

"To provide Pensions for aged persons," presented by Mr. W. H. Lever; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Mr. Burt, Mr. John Wilson, Sir Walter Foster, Mr. Clark, Mr. Walter Rea, Mr. Tyson Wilson, Mr. Billson, Mr. Murray Macdonald, Mr. Gill, and Mr. Vivian; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 17.]

SMALL HOLDINGS BILL.

"To further facilitate the provision of Small Holdings in England and Wales," presented by Mr. George Hardy; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Mr. Lynch, Mr. George White, Mr. Nichols, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Levy Lever, Mr. Corrie Grant, Mr. Vickerman Rutherford, Mr. Essex, Mr. Rowlands, and Mr.

Stephen Collins; to be read a second time upon Friday, 17th May, and to be printed. [Bill 18.]

LIGHTS ON VEHICLES BILL.

"To render compulsory the carrying of Lights by Vehicles at night," presented by Major Renton; supported by Mr. Courthope, Mr. Fiennes, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Abel Smith, and Mr. Tomkinson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 15th March, and to be printed. [Bill 19.]

WAGES BOARDS BILL.

"To provide for the establishment of Wages Boards," presented by Mr. Ernest Lamb; supported by Mr. Alden, Mr. Barnes, Sir Charles Dilke, Mr. Gill, Dr. Hazel, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Money, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Whitwell Wilson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 20.]

INTESTATE HUSBAND'S ESTATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the share of Intestate Husband's Estate falling to the widow in Scotland," presented by Mr. Crombie; supported by Mr. Gulland, Sir Henry Craik, Mr. Dundas White, Mr. Younger, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Friday, 3rd May, and to be printed. [Bill 21.]

EDUCATION ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To make provision for vacation schools, and for the medical inspection and treatment of school children," presented by Mr. Walter Rea; supported by Mr. Shackelton, Mr. Frederick Edwin Smith, Mr. Tomkinson, Mr. Williamson, and Mr. Guest; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 22.]

RESIDENT MAGISTRATES (BELFAST) BILL.

"To make provisions for the appointment and remuneration of Resident Magistrates in Belfast," presented by Mr. Wolff; supported by Sir Daniel Dixon and Mr. Sloan; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 23.]

COAL MINES REGULATION BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Coal Mines," presented by Mr. Wadsworth; supported by Mr. William Abraham (Rhondda), Mr. Enoch Edwards, Mr. Harvey, Sir Joseph Leese, Mr. Brace, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. James Haslam, Mr. Glover, Sir Alfred Jacoby, and Mr. William Johnson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 24.]

ECCLESIASTICAL DISORDERS BILL.

"To provide for the suppression of Ecclesiastical Disorders," presented by Sir George Kekewich; supported by Mr. Charles Corbett, Mr. Glendinning, Dr. Hazel, Mr. Thomas Frederick Richards, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Ridsdale, Mr. Watson Rutherford, Mr. Seaverns, Mr. Seddon, Mr. Sloan, and Mr. Luke White; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 25.]

DUBLIN METROPOLITAN POLICE BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the Dublin Metropolitan Police," presented by Mr. Harrington; supported by Mr. Field, Mr. Nannetti, and Mr. Waldron; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th March, and to be printed. [Bill 26.]

SWEATED INDUSTRIES BILL.

"To improve the conditions of employment, including the establishment of a legal minimum wage, of persons employed in certain industries," presented by Mr. Arthur Henderson; supported by Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Shackelton, Mr. Barnes, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Wardle, and Mr. Thorne; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 27.]

SUNDAY CLOSING (WALES) ACT (1881) AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Sunday Closing (Wales) Act, 1881," presented by Mr. Herbert Roberts; supported by Sir Alfred Thomas, Mr. William Jones, Mr. Robinson, and Mr. Ellis Davies; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 28.]

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.

"To enable the inhabitants of localities by a direct vote to prevent the issue of licences for the sale of Intoxicating Liquors," presented by Mr. Leif Jones; supported by Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Crossley, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Sir Francis Channing, Mr. George White, and Mr. Nicholls; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 29.]

CORONERS' INQUESTS (RAILWAY, ETC., FATALITIES) BILL.

"To amend the Law as to Coroners' Inquests in the case of Fatal Accidents on Railways and for other purposes," presented by Sir Francis Channing; supported by Mr. Bell, Sir Charles Schwann, Mr. Hudson, Mr. Charles Nicholson, and Mr. Tomkinson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 30.]

IRISH TOBACCO BILL.

"To repeal the Law which prohibits the growing of Tobacco in Ireland," presented by Mr. William Redmond; supported by Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Vincent Kennedy, and Mr. John O'Connor; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 31.]

SUMMARY JURISDICTION (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Acts," presented by Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; supported by Mr. Jordan, Mr. Sloan, and Mr. Thomas Corbett; to be read a second time upon Friday, 12th April, and to be printed. [Bill 32.]

MERCHANDISE MARKS BILL.

"To amend the Merchandise Marks Act, 1887," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 33.]

PROBATION OF FIRST OFFENDERS BILL.

"To amend the Probation of First Offenders Act, 1887, and to authorise the appointment of Probation Officers," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 34.]

POLITICAL PENSIONS BILL.

"To repeal the Political Offices Pension Act, 1869," presented by Sir Howard Vincent; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 35.]

POLICE SUPERANNUATION (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To amend the Police (Scotland) Act, 1890," presented by Mr. M'Crae; supported by Mr. Cameron Corbett, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Barnes, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Charles Price, and Mr. Dundas White; to be read a second time upon Friday, 19th April, and to be printed. [Bill 36.]

AGED PENSIONERS BILL.

"To provide Pensions for the Aged Deserving Poor," presented by Mr. Samuel Roberts; to be read a second time upon Friday, 10th May, and to be printed. [Bill 37.]

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the Sale of Intoxicating Liquors in Ireland on Saturdays and Sundays; and for other purposes," presented by Mr. Sloan; supported by Mr. Gordon, Mr. Glendinning, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Jordan, Mr. Arthur Henderson, and Mr. Thomas Frederick Richards; to be read a second time upon Friday, 26th April, and to be printed. [Bill 38.]

IRISH LAND BILL.

"To amend the Irish Land Acts," presented by Mr. T. W. Russell; supported by Mr. Glendinning; to be read a second time upon Friday, 19th April, and to be printed. [Bill 39.]

LICENSED PREMISES (ELECTION DAYS) CLOSING BILL.

"To secure the Closing of Licensed Premises on certain Election Days," presented by Mr. Charles Roberts; supported by Colonel Herbert, Mr. T. W. Russell, Major Renton, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Trevelyan, Mr. Whitwell Wilson, and Mr. Billson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 15th March, and to be printed. [Bill 40.]

ENGINES AND BOILERS (PERSONS IN CHARGE) BILL.

"To grant Certificates to Persons in Charge of Engines and Boilers in and about Mines," presented by Mr. John Taylor; supported by Mr. John Wilson, Mr. John Johnson, Mr. Bell, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. Enoch Edwards, Sir Alfred Jacoby, Mr. Walton, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Summerbell, and Mr. Compton Rickett; to be read a second time upon Friday next, and to be printed. [Bill 41.]

SHOPS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Shops," presented by Sir Charles Dilke; supported by Mr. Bowerman, Mr. Timothy Davies, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. McCrae, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Alfred Scott, Mr. Seddon, and Mr. Tennant; to be read a second time upon Tuesday next, and to be printed. [Bill 42.]

FRANCHISE AND REMOVAL OF WOMEN'S DISABILITIES BILL.

"To establish a single Franchise at all Elections, and thereby to abolish University representation and to remove the Disabilities of Women," presented by Sir Charles Dilke; supported by Mr. Bell, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Byles, Mr. Keir Hardie, Mr. Hodge, Mr. Masterman, Mr. Chiozza Money, Mr. Robert Pearce, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Sheehan, and Mr. Whitwell Wilson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 8th March, and to be printed. [Bill 43.]

A QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE.

MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) said: On a point of privilege, Sir. I beg to ask your ruling, if a newspaper attributes to one hon. Member the substance of a speech made by another hon. Member, and subsequently, when an explanation is demanded, publishes only a portion of the aggrieved hon. Member's letter, and calls it his explanation, whether in that case a breach of privilege has or has not been committed?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Call them out.

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member has not specifically called my attention to the matter until he rose just now. It is rather difficult, at a moment's notice, to give a reply, and I should recommend him to take a legal opinion first.

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment [14th February] to Main Question [12th February, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Which Amendment was—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words, 'But humbly regret that His Majesty's gracious Speech does not include proposals for repealing the penal clauses of the Vaccination Act.'"—(*Mr. Lupton.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there added."

*MR. CAVE (Surrey, Kingston) said that, before speaking on the Amendment, he wanted to recall to the attention of the House exactly what had happened last night. The effect of the Amendment, if carried, would be to recommend to His Majesty the repeal of the penal clauses of the Vaccination Acts. The hon. Member who moved it had attacked the whole system of vaccination and the establishment of compulsory vaccination, and had adduced arguments and figures of the most striking character. He used the word "striking" for the moment as a useful expression. Having heard that speech, he had looked to His Majesty's Government and especially to the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board, who, of course, had in his charge for the moment the public health of the country, to give to the House some kind of guidance, on the matter discussed in the hon. Member's speech. But he had done nothing of the kind. The right hon. Gentleman rose, and, in the five minutes he gave to the matter, entirely put on one side the whole question raised by the Amendment and the speech in support of it, and made to the House a most important announcement, namely, that his

Department intended very shortly to introduce a Bill the effect of which would be to give certain instalments of the abolition of compulsory vaccination. First, exemption was to be made very much easier by prescribing that, in place of the present duty of applying to a Court of summary jurisdiction for a certificate of exemption, the person requiring exemption for his child should make a statutory declaration of his objection to vaccination. Secondly, the penalties under the Vaccination Acts were to be made lighter and easier than they were now. This was a very serious matter, and they were entitled to know whether the Government adopted the arguments and figures, the reckless figures, as he thought, put before the House by the Member for Sleaford? Were they opposed to compulsory vaccination on principle? What view did they take as to that question? What view did their medical officers—after all, the advisers of the country—take on the subject? Were they prepared to throw over the policy which had ruled the country under all Governments within the memory of any Members of the House? No Minister had yet said to the House that compulsory vaccination was wrong. No Minister, until last night, had proposed a measure the effect of which would be to destroy compulsory vaccination; and he thought the country ought to know what view was taken by the right hon. Gentleman and his friends upon the matters discussed in the speech of the mover of the Amendment. He need hardly say that the view taken by the Government was a very important matter, apart from any Bill they might bring in, because if they were opposed to vaccination, the effect on Government Departments, on boards throughout the country, and on officers of health would be very great indeed. Therefore, he hoped to get from somebody on the Front Bench a definite pronouncement in favour of compulsory vaccination. He could hardly suppose that they would say a word the other way. He, of course, was not an expert on the matter; he had no advantage in that respect over either the mover or seconder of the Amendment. But they had all studied the question and knew something about the figures; and he could not suppose that a practice which was supported by an overwhelming majority of medical practitioners in the country, and, he supposed, still more overwhelming majority of medical officers of health, which had been supported by a Royal Commission after hearing a great deal of evidence, which had been supported and maintained by every Government of this country hitherto, would be abandoned by the present Government under any pressure whatever. They knew the enormous and beneficial change which had come over the country since the introduction of compulsory vaccination. They had all read something of what smallpox was in the eighteenth century. He did not think anybody could read books relating to that period without learning what a scourge smallpox was to the country. Lord Macaulay said—

> "It was the most terrible of all the ministers of death, always present, filling the churchyard with corpses, tormenting with constant fears all whom it had not yet stricken, leaving on those whose lives it spared the hideous traces of its power."

Smallpox was a loathsome and terrible disease, and they should be very careful that no steps were taken which would have the least tendency towards its reintroduction. But apart from that historical matter, he had figures in favour of vaccination which were extremely striking. One set of figures had reference to the epidemic in Sheffield in 1887–8. During that epidemic a census was taken to find out the numbers of vaccinated and unvaccinated persons in the town, and the number of each class attacked by the disease. It was found that out of every thousand vaccinated persons sixteen were attacked, and out of every thousand unvaccinated persons seventy were attacked. Or to take another figure, it was found that among the children under five years of age, out of every thousand vaccinated four had smallpox, and out of every thousand unvaccinated forty-seven were attacked, or more than eleven times as many. And the deaths were in the same proportion. As regarded the deaths caused by the disease it was found, on figures relating to the whole population, that among 100,000 vaccinated persons of all ages there would have been seventy-five deaths, and among 100,000 unvaccinated, 3,479 deaths. Those were very striking figures. Then there was the London epidemic in

1901 and 1902. In that outbreak there were 6,945 cases of smallpox in vaccinated persons treated in the hospitals under the Metropolitan Asylums Board and 705 died, equal to 10·1 per cent. of those attacked. As regarded unvaccinated patients, they numbered 2,278, and amongst that total there were 753 deaths, equal to 33·5 per cent of those attacked. In regard to children under ten years of age, amongst the vaccinated class there were 134 cases with two deaths only, whilst amongst 1,274 unvaccinated cases there were 442 deaths, or over 34 per cent. Those were figures which could not be lightly set aside. Again, had anything happened to destroy the effect of the report on this question which was obtained from Germany by Dr. Bruce Low not many years ago? It was astonishing what conclusive results had been obtained in Germany by a consistent and resolute adherence to vaccination. In Germany, at one of the great medical colleges, they had had to import smallpox cases from other countries in order to show the students what smallpox was like. He wished to know whether the Government adhered to the view expressed in that well-known report as to the effect of vaccination and re-vaccination in Germany. He did not need to labour the general question further; but if the Government adhered to the principle of compulsory vaccination, he hoped nothing would be done to palter with the question. No doubt he would be taunted with the conscientious objection clause in the Act of 1898. Personally he was no admirer of that clause, and if he had been in the House at the time his vote would probably have been given against it. It was the thin end of the wedge. But, whatever opinion might be held as to that clause, he hoped that no alteration of the law would be made which would extend the area of exemption. It was some kind of check upon objectors that they must now come into a public court to declare their objection to vaccination, and must satisfy a magistrate that the objection was really and conscientiously held. The cases of exemption up to the present time were not very numerous. There was in the county, a part of which he represented, a population exceeding 500,000, and a birthrate of about 13,500, and the yearly exemptions granted numbered about 500. He did not know the number of refusals, but he would be very much surprised if they exceeded fifty a year. If they were to substitute for the present system a mere statutory declaration to be made by anybody, without any obligation to satisfy a Bench of magistrates, they would considerably extend the area of exemption. If they had 500 cases now in his own county, they would probably have under the alteration of the law suggested 1,000 cases next year and 2,000 the following year, and the number would still further increase, not because there were so many people who conscientiously objected to vaccination, but because those claiming exemption would not be confined to that particular class. Exemption in future would be claimed by the idle and ignorant, and by those parents who desired to avoid the trouble of nursing a child after vaccination. Consequently we should get a very large number of unvaccinated persons in this country. It had been said that the magistrates made it too hard for an objector to obtain his certificate. He agreed that in some cases magistrates had gone beyond what was required of them. Magistrates had to satisfy themselves that there was a conscientious objection in the mind of the applicant, and for this purpose, they had been in the habit of putting certain questions to an applicant in order to ascertain the existence and conscientious nature of his belief. They were quite justified in taking that course; but it had sometimes happened that a certificate was refused, merely because the answers given by the applicant were unreasonable. He thought that was entirely wrong. He had never refused a certificate, and as a matter of fact the more unreasonable the applicant appeared to be, the more ready would he be to believe that the man had a conscientious objection to vaccination. But if hon. Members would look into the matter they would find that the cases where a certificate were refused upon wrong grounds were extremely few in proportion to the numbers granted; and since the issue of the Home Office circular they had practically disappeared. It was now only where the applicant would not take the trouble to satisfy the Bench that the certificates were refused. He hoped they would not have any reckless change in the law. He felt very strongly upon this point. He trusted that hon. Members on both sides would pause before they decided upon a course which might seriously affect the working of the Vaccination Acts; and he believed that any Bill which would have the effect of weakening the Vaccination Acts would receive strong opposition from many quarters of the House.

*SIR W. J. COLLINS (St. Pancras, W.) said that as one who served on the Royal Commission of 1889–1896 which investigated this subject he would like to say a few words. He wished at the outset to dissociate himself from the rather lurid pathology of the hon. Member for the Sleaford Division. He would confine his remarks to the terms of the Amendment rather than wander over the whole question, because that was fully dealt with in the Report issued by the Royal Commission on Vaccination. That Report gave a full history of the question up to that time. In his opinion both Parties in the House had committed themselves to the principle that the honest objector ought not to be subjected to compulsion.

The hon. Member who had just sat down had alluded to the Royal Commission. He would like to quote exactly what were the recommendations of the Commission of which he was a member. The late Lord Herschell was chairman, and had among his colleagues the late Sir James Paget, the late Sir William Guyer Hunter, Sir Michael Foster, whose death they had recently had to lament, Mr. Jonathan Hutchinson, Sir Charles Dalrymple, Mr. S. Whitbread, Mr. Picton, the late Mr. Meadows White, and the junior Member for Oldham, who took the place of the late Mr. Bradlaugh on the original Commission. He submitted that the question immediately before the House raised by the Amendment to the Address was not whether vaccination effected a large amount of protection against small-pox or not, or whether it was a proceeding which was safe or had attendant risks. The particular problem was—What were they going to do with the honest objector? The honest objector had troubled both the present and the previous Government. The legislation of 1898, he regretted to say, did not follow the advice tendered to Her Majesty by the Royal Commission—either by the majority or by the dissentient Commissioners who signed a Report. He might say that when they addressed themselves to the question of the administration of the law at the beginning of their sittings, they found a state of things which he could only describe as harsh, unsatisfactory, and indeed almost brutal. Men were brought before the Commission who had been subjected to penalty after penalty—sometimes ten, twenty, thirty, or even forty penalties — and imprisonment in some cases accompanied with hard labour, he believed illegally; and men had been treated as criminals, fed on prison diet, and put in prison dress for disapproving of this particular medical prescription. The Commission had not sat many months before it agreed, unanimously, that that state of things must cease. It recommended at once that repeated penalties must go, and that the treatment of default—of medical nonconformity if they liked—should not be that of crime, and that the prison teatment should not be that of a criminal. On these two points the Commission were absolutely unanimous. When they came to the final stage of the Report the point was raised, and the problem was very carefully considered by Lord Herschell as to what was to be done with the honest objector. Seven members of the Commission favoured the view that he should be required either to state before the local authority that he objected to vaccination, or that he should make a statutory declaration. Two members of the Commission alone advised that he should be brought before a magistrate according to the practice followed under the law since 1898 when the amending Act was passed, whereas four members of the Commission, Mr. Samuel Whitbread, Mr. J. A. Picton, the junior Member for Oldham, and himself signed a Report to this effect—

> "We, the undersigned, desire to express our dissent from the proposal to retain in any form compulsory vaccination. We cordially concur in the recommendation that conscientious objection to vaccination should be respected. The objection that mere negligence, or unwillingness on the part of parents to take trouble might keep many children from being vaccinated, would be largely, if not wholly, removed by the adoption of the Scotch system of offering vaccination at the home of the child, and by providing for medical treatment of any untoward results which may arise. We therefore think that the modified form of compulsion recommended by our colleagues is unnecessary, and that in practice it could not be carried out. The hostility which compulsion has

evoked in the past towards the practice of vaccination is fully acknowledged in the Report. In our opinion the retention of compulsion in any form will, in the future, cause irritation and hostility of the same kind."

He thought that had been verified by what they had seen of the action of the magistrates in the last ten years.

> "The right of the parent, on grounds of conscience, to refuse vaccination for his child being conceded, the offer of vaccination under improved conditions being made at the home of the child, it would in our opinion be best to leave the parent free to accept or reject this offer."

If the Legislature had consented to follow that recommendation of the four members of the Commission, or even the recommendation of the seven majority Commissioners, possibly there might not have been the irritation which was going on at the present time. But the legislation of 1898 did not follow the recommendations of the Royal Commission; it did not even carry out the intentions, as he gathered, of the authors of the legislation. As the hon. Member for Kingston had alluded to the question as being whether there should be compulsory vaccination or not, in language implying that no Government had ever surrendered the principle of compulsion, he must read the words of Mr. Chaplin when this matter was discussed. He said—

> "The question at issue is perfectly clear, whether vaccination should be voluntary or compulsory in future . . . . I am compelled to recognise that the administration of a law of compulsory vaccination would be impracticable in the future."

And again—

> "No Government and no minister in the face of that opinion would be able to enforce it."

The Legislature had placed itself in this position. It was not possible for either party to revert to the old days of compulsion with repeated penalties, prison treatment, and so forth. He very much doubted whether the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board merely to substitute a statutory declaration would enable him to find any rest for the sole of his foot there, and whether he would not find that in this, as in other matters, it would only be an instalment leading up to the larger policy, and that the repeal of the law with regard to compulsory vaccination would be the final result in accordance with the recommendation signed by Mr. Whitbread, Mr. Picton the junior Member for Oldham and himself. He did not view that condition of things with alarm. As a medical man, he confessed that he would rather that their prescriptions and surgical operations were effected by moral suasion than by being associated with policemen, judicial penalties, and threats of the law. They constantly met with cases in which patients might not be prepared to take the advice tendered by the physician or surgeon. For instance, in the case of strangulated hernia, where the patient was standing, as it were, between life and death——

MR. CAVE: There is no infection there.

*SIR W. J. COLLINS said he knew he would be met with that interruption, and he was prepared to deal with it. There was also the case of tracheotomy in diphtheria to relieve the patient from death by suffocation. There medical men were limited to moral suasion; and he believed their advice was more likely to be taken than if it were backed up and supported with the iron hand in the velvet glove, or any attempt at coercion by police or imprisonment. The hon. Member had said very properly that they were not dealing in hernia with an infectious case. But if there was anything which *ex hypothesi* ought not to require compulsion for its assistance it was vaccination which claimed *ex hypothesi* that he who accepted it voluntarily was indifferent to the acceptance or refusal of it by his neighbour. Let them review for a moment what were the scientific principles underlying this question; and he took it that this House would not be either bullied or frightened into any change of the law, but would be guided by scientific evidence—he did not say opinion or authority, but the scientific evidence at its disposal. The two principles or policies which every civilised nation had adopted with regard to the treatment of the disease of smallpox were, on the one hand, that they might proceed on the theory that every individual should be purposely inoculated either with the old-fashioned smallpox inoculation described by Lady Mary Wortley Montague, which was practised up to 1840 when it was made a penal offence, or with cowpox;

or they might adopt the alternative theory that the proper procedure was to separate the sick from the healthy, to notify and isolate as early as possible every infectious case, to adopt sanitary organisation, and to secure disinfection of infected persons and things; and so rather keep out the invasion of the infection than accept it as inevitable and secure an operation on every individual. At present they relied wholly on neither the one nor the other. So far as the legislature had tackled the question of compulsory vaccination it had broken down much of the theory that underlay the first proposition, namely, that every one should be submitted artifically to the disease, and thereby rendered in future immune from attack. According to those who were hottest and strongest in favour of carrying out that principle, it was absolutely necessary that the preventive process should be applied to every individual, and that it should be repeated every ten or seven years, and some had suggested even shorter periods, in order that everyone might receive the maximum amount of protection which the operation was able to confer. Legislation had made holes in that wall, for the case might be compared to a low lying country surrounded by a wall to keep out the invasion of the flood. Holes had been made in that wall by saying to the conscientious objectors, "You shall go free." And they had lowered the height of the wall by not insisting on re-vaccination, although that was essential to this theory in order to secure immunity.

Alongside of this principle and process of protective inoculation there had grown up in practice in many towns, and largely in the metropolis, the principle of notification and isolation, and disinfection of persons and things. And the evidence before the Commission on this subject was so striking that all the Commissioners signed a statement to the effect that a sound system of sanitary organisation and isolation was a potent factor in the prevention of smallpox and in securing immunity for the people. Let them take the notable case of London, especially alluded to in the Majority Report. It was shown that down to 1885 very little progress had been made in reducing the mortality from smallpox. From that time isolation was adopted and the infectious hospitals were removed from the crowded districts, and a notable decline took place in the metropolis, which according to Lord Herschell and his colleagues must be attributed largely to this new system of sanitary organisation. It was because of the recent development in many countries, and even in imperfectly vaccinated communities, of this system that it was possible to repress and keep down the disease of smallpox. Sheffield had been alluded to. But in regard to Sheffield the members of the Royal Commission were informed that the vaccination laws had been obeyed better than in many large towns, up to 88 per cent. of the population having been vaccinated. But there, in the absence of a system of notification and isolation, although that town was well vaccinated in the eyes of the law, a severe epidemic of smallpox was experienced. It was therefore maintained by some, with a good deal of evidence to support their contention, that in imperfectly vaccinated communities a system of notification, isolation, and sanitation was able to cope with an outbreak of smallpox, whereas with such vaccination as the present legislation required, they were unable to keep out the disease unless there was also some system of notification, isolation, and sanitation. This altered the scientific position in regard to the mode of dealing with the disease. In proportion as they came to rely on the stamping-out process rather than the stamping-in process it was evident that the need for the universal application of vaccination to every child, or the repetition of vaccination every seven, five, three, or two years became relatively less important. That was a point which had been lost sight of. It was being recognised by medical officers of health throughout the country, and they put a good deal of reliance on isolation and disinfection which had been so successfully practiced even in crowded places like London, as well as in other urban areas. He did not wish to go into the larger question raised by the hon. Member opposite, but as regarded statistics it was rather a drawn battle when the statistics quoted were compared with those on the other side.

The question need hardly be treated with levity. There were members of his own profession, whose reputation and standing could not be disputed, who were profound sceptics in regard to vaccination. He admitted they were a minority, but no one in the profession took up the position to-day that was taken up when compulsion was first introduced in 1853, when Lord Lyttelton's Bill, introduced in the House of Lords, was based on the principle, as its author stated, that the certainty of vaccination as a preventive was unanimously supported by the medical profession and also that the operation was perfectly free from ill result or harm. Neither of these propositions could be maintained to-day by any member of his profession with a reputation to lose, nor did the Reports of the Royal Commission, majority or minority, support either of these propositions. The hon. Member for Kingston's own statistics showed that the claim now made was not for an absolute protection, but a limited and temporary protection. He regretted to say the Royal Commission had before them cases of injury, including erysipelas, sloughing and blood poisoning, which, he also regretted to say, they could not guarantee by the use of any kind of lymph would always be absent, although they might be made relatively fewer. The President of the Local Government Board could not tell them for certain what were the original sources of the lymph employed. As the micro-organism of vaccine had never been discovered, the lymph did not admit of being standardised and the dose scientifically measured. Other facts in regard to the pathology of vaccinia showed it to be in some respects allied to diseases far from pleasant to describe. It was because of these considerations that the Legislature had to revise its position in regard to the question of compulsion and have regard to the development of sanitary activity throughout the country, notably in the matter of isolation and disinfection, which in the opinion of some eminent men had been the means of reducing the prevalence of smallpox when vaccination had got the credit for it.

On these accounts he felt that even the suggestion of the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board might not be a final one, but only an instalment leading up to a larger policy. When his Bill was introduced some of them would feel it necessary to push it in that direction. At present he welcomed the right hon. Gentleman's sympathetic attitude as suggesting that he shared something of the views he had endeavoured to express to the House. In conclusion he ventured to say he opposed compulsion as a surgeon, because he would rather have his advice recommended by a process of moral suasion than imposed by the co-operation of policeman, penalties, and imprisonments; he also opposed it as a Liberal, because he thought it unwise and unjust to force vaccination on those who regarded it as useless or dangerous.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said he desired to say a few words in this debate, because he had been at the Local Government Board himself for five years, and responsible for the administration of the Vaccination Acts. The hon. Member who moved the Amendment had made a quotation from some past speech of his which, the hon. Member had insisted, contained a specific declaration that primary vaccination was a farce. He had not been able to find a copy of any speech of his which contained an expression to that effect. But there was a speech in which the hon. Member would find that he was dealing with the argument used by some anti-vaccinators that vaccination had been proved to be a failure, because in certain cases serious results had followed from it, in the contraction of either small-pox or some other disease. He found that no believer in primary vaccination had ever contended that primary vaccination alone was a complete safeguard from small-pox.

SIR W. J. COLLINS: Jenner.

MR. WALTER LONG said that he was dealing with contemporary opinion. The speech of the hon. Gentleman opposite had been listened to with the greatest possible pleasure and interest by the House. It would be superfluous for him—perhaps almost inpertinent—to say that they all recognised not merely the high authority of the hon. Gentleman when he spoke on this or on many other questions, but also the great ability, dexterity, and charm with which the hon. Gentleman put his case before his hearers. The hon. Gentleman had said that if there were a complete system everywhere of sanitary administration and isolation that would be the best preventive they could have against small-pox or any other disease. But any one who had practical experience of administration of local government at the present day could, he insisted, scarcely agree with that argument. He had been in the Local Government Board as Secretary and President for eleven years, and he could affirm that there was no more difficult work imposed on a Government Board than that of trying to induce local authorities to adopt sanitary precautions. In the first place, these were very expensive and difficult of application, and in the second place, even if those sanitary precautions were satisfactory in themselves, he did not think that anybody would suggest that there was any hope of securing their general adoption throughout the country. The hon. Member for West St. Pancras had pointed out some of the weak spots of the vaccination system. Of course, there were weak spots in every human device; but although the hon. Gentleman threw some doubt on the figures produced by the hon. and learned Member behind him, and warned the House that statistics were dangerous things and could be quoted on both sides, and that experts could give evidence on both sides, they must look to the fact that since the amending Act of 1898 many people who held the view that the concession to the conscientious objector would result in less vaccination, recognised that the actual general result of the passing of that Act had been a very large increase in the number of people vaccinated in this country, and in the number of children submitted to primary vaccination. That showed that that change in the law had removed a substantial grievance in the operation of the Vaccination Acts, and that a largely increased number of people had adopted vaccination. The hon. Member for West St. Pancras did not attempt to deal with the case quoted by his hon. friend behind him—which had never been answered — he meant the case of Germany. One of the ablest inspectors on the general staff of the Local Government Board — a man of knowledge and experience, and, though to some extent sympathising with the view opposed to that of the anti-vaccinators, was a man of the highest possible integrity and ability, and whose report therefore might be accepted as an accurate account of what he had observed in Germany—had put clearly the experience of Germany in favour of vaccination. He himself could never understand how people who condemned the system of vaccination had never attempted to meet the case of Germany. But Germany was not the only case. In India the most remarkable results had followed the universal practice of vaccination. The President of the Local Government Board held very largely the views of the hon. Member for West St. Pancras, and if those views prevailed in the administration of the Local Government Board he should look forward with less security than now to the future. He understood that the right hon. Gentleman had only made a short speech the previous evening because he thought the debate was closing; but he did not understand that the right hon. Gentleman's general attitude on the question had in any way been altered since he became responsible for the administration of the Local Government Board, and that the right hon. Gentleman was endeavouring to remove some of the difficulties in regard to the issue of certificates to conscientious objectors and to fees. As to the new form of certificates he would say nothing; but the question of fees was one that called for treatment. The late Government provided for domiciliary vaccination. It was found at first that it was impossible for medical men to decide what sort of a fee they should receive for the work, and in many cases their fees were undoubtedly excessive and imposed a great burden on the local authorities. In regard to the general question, it could not be denied that the condition of this country in regard to small-pox had largely improved. It was perfectly true that there had been an advance in sanitary science and sanitary administration, but that advance had not by any means covered the whole of the country. There was, no doubt, a great improvement in the sanitary administration of our large towns, but there was a great deal to be done in that regard in our smaller towns and in the rural districts, and he thought it could not be claimed that by sanitary advance alone, or even to a large extent, this change had been effected. Yet hon. Members would find that there had been an enormous reduction in the number of small-pox cases throughout the country. The hon. Gentleman had stated that those who believed in general vaccination and regarded it as a safeguard ought to be content to be vaccinated themselves and go about feeling that they were immune; but, really, was that an argument that a Government should seriously consider? This was a case in regard to which they were bound to think for those who had neither the leisure nor the opportunity of considering and speaking for themselves, and if they could provide for them a reasonable and simple plan by which they need not be called upon to carry out the law if they did not desire to do so, and by which the penal clauses of the Act were only made applicable where they wilfully neglected the most simple precautions provided by the law, surely that was enough. Was it not going too far to say that they were to condemn the whole plan and to relinquish the safeguards and machinery which applied to the community because they could protect and render themselves immune? For himself, he did not believe that for a long time to come, or until people could produce stronger and weightier evidence than had yet been brought forward any responsible Ministry would do anything to weaken the administration of the vaccination laws. He trusted that any proposal to do so would not be supported by the President of the Local Government Board. They had had innumerable debates upon this point upon non-party lines, except when they had taken place on a Motion for the reduction of the salary of the Minister of the day, and then, self-preservation being the first law of nature, Party had been called into play. As a rule, however, the question had been discussed quite independently of the Party views of Members. He hoped that always would be the case, because this was a question which ought not to be brought within the range of Party politics. He apologised for speaking upon this subject, but he only spoke as an old Local Government Board official in defence of the system which he believed to be wise and in the best interests of the community as a whole.

*SIR WALTER FOSTER (Derbyshire, Ilkeston) said he felt a certain amount of responsibility in speaking upon the matter, because he was, he believed, the parent in this House of the conscientious objectors—a family which had grown up in the country and which had been despitefully used by various Governments and by magistrates in consequence of words used in regard to them in the last Act upon the subject of vaccination. It would be in the recollection of the late Prime Minister that he carried an Amendment in 1898 in favour of the conscientious objector, and that the right hon. Gentleman would not accept the words which he wished him to accept in carrying out the views which he expressed on that occasion. If his words had been accepted they would have had none of the trouble and turmoil which had been going on in the country ever since, because under his proposal every one who was a conscientious objector could obtain a certificate by making a declaration before a Court or magistrate. That he believed to be the ideal system, because, under it, if a man had a conscientious objection it would be left to the man himself to decide the matter. It was impossible, as he conceived, for anyone to form a judgment as to the conscience of another man, and if a man came up and made a declaration he ought to receive exemption. He did not think the present system ought to be perpetuated by any Government, and he was delighted that the President of the Local Government Board had announced to the House that this bad system was to cease, and that they were to have a reasonable and rational method by which people who did not believe in vaccination could obtain freedom from compulsion. The reason he was induced to take that line with regard to the Act of 1898 was that after the Royal Commission had reported that a certain loathsome disease could be communicated through vaccination he felt that the whole case for compulsion must cease to have effect. The moment that fact was admitted, as it was admitted by the Royal Commission, and recognised by the medical profession, they had no right to compel any man to take the risk of communicating that disease to his child. Therefore the principle of compulsion had broken down, and they must allow any man freedom from any attempt to force his child to be vaccinated. If the right hon. Gentleman had accepted the words which he proposed and had made this process automatic without the obligation of satisfying the Court, a lot of trouble which had existed in the country would not have been incurred, and we should have had more satisfactory results in regard to vaccination at the present moment. It was always a mistake where men had a conscientious objection to make martyrs of them. What had happened under the present system? Scores of his own constituents and of other Members' constituents had had to lose part of a day's work, spend in Court fees 1s. 6d. or more, because they wanted their child freed from liability to be vaccinated. That was a monstrous tyranny which ought not to exist. The Conservative Government of 1898, when they were beaten in the House of Commons, ought to have made it easy for the conscientious objector to get his relief instead of introducing into an Act of Parliament stupid words which had created this great trouble in the country, and given rise to the agitation against vaccination which had been going on ever since because men who went into Court to claim exemption were made martyrs. The course which the late Government had taken was not worthily taken, because it was done in order to save the face of the Government in view of a proposal which had come from the Opposition side of the House. When they accepted and carried the proposal to admit the conscientious objector to a statutory position they were also promised by the Government a Bill for revaccination,. To attempt to carry out the vaccination laws without that in a compulsory system was to depend upon a broken reed. He believed in vaccination. He had gone through three small-pox epidemics and what he saw had led him to believe in it, because he had seen the different developments of the disease in vaccinated and unvaccinated patients. The differences were so terrible that he would not attempt to describe them. But although he believed in vaccination, it was only as a protection for a short period; and in order to make it thorough it ought to be resorted to again after a few years. It ought to be repeated at least once or possibly twice before the adult age was reached. His hon. friends would complain that he wanted more vaccination. Well, if a thing was good to protect they could not possibly have too much of it. At all events they wanted as much as would give them protection from this terrible disease. That they could not get by simple vaccination; they should have re-vaccination as well. When the last Bill was before the Committee upstairs he proposed what would have been a more efficacious system than that which Mr. Chaplin adopted. He suggested to Mr. Chaplin that he should meet the difficulty by dropping compulsion altogether and giving every doctor a fee for each child he vaccinated properly. He believed that if that policy were followed they would get a much larger number of children vaccinated than under any compulsory system, because the system of personal persuasion by a doctor at the bedside was more efficient than any other means of inducing a mother to have her child vaccinated. The answer to that proposal was that it would cost £72,000 a year, but under the present system we were spending six, seven, or it might be ten times that amount. Finally, the conscientious objectors clause in the Act of 1898 was an example of bad economy, bad drafting, and bad statesmanship. As to isolation, he had always held a high opinion as to its value in preventing not only small-pox but other diseases. But it would cost much money, and people were very sensitive about rates; even more sensitive than they were about vaccination. Besides that, there were many parts of the country where he believed the whole sanitary system was in a state of inefficiency. If we had an outbreak of cholera to-morrow there were miles of country districts where the people would be decimated by the disease if it once got in. And that condition must go on until the President of the Local Government Board took into consideration the Amendment of the Public Health Acts. A system of thorough isolation would be effective not only against small-pox but against all other contagious and infectious diseases; but the expense would be enormous, and it would lead to such rates as he was afraid the country would not bear. He did not think it was a practicable scheme at the present time, although he was glad to see the system carried out in Leicester, and he hoped other places would follow the sanitary efficiency of that town. He was glad to find that the conscientious objectors were now going to receive justice. For years past the way in which these poor men had been subjected to cross-examination by Justices of the Peace and the manner in which they had been exposed to waste of time and money had been a perfect scandal. Men actuated by a conscientious motive had been sneered at by the Bench and mulcted of half-a-day's work as well as fees, and he believed that any method the right hon. Gentleman took to save them from these odious penalties would do much to popularise vaccination.

*MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross) said there were certain portions of the British dominions where the conscientious objector did not exist, and he rose to inform the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board that while he understood from the answer given to him on a previous occasion that the Bill he proposed to bring forward would extend to Scotland, he now understood that it would not do so. However that might be he hoped that the same facilities for exemption would be extended to those who had conscientious objections to vaccination in Scotland as were about to be extended to the conscientious objector in England. He himself was only a half believer in vaccination, and those who had seen its evil effects were not quite so enamoured of it as others who believed it to be more or less of a preventive. He had seen a young child suffering in a terrible way from it with holes in its legs and ulcers in its mouth, and he believed that the suffering could not have been more had the child had the smallpox. He therefore desired to get some assurance from the Secretary for Scotland that he would give a favourable consideration to the position of the people of Scotland who conscientiously objected to vaccination, and that if they made a statutory declaration of their conscientious objection to vaccination they might be exempt from fine or imprisonment. Some persons in Scotland were in prison at the present moment for having broken the law in this respect, but their conscientious objections in this matter should be respected.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire) said he had no difficulty in giving the assurance for which the hon. Member had asked. In his view it was quite indefensible to refuse to Scotland what was given to England in a matter of this kind; the rights of conscience were the same in each case. The House, however, would be aware that there was a difference in the law of the two countries, and for that reason it was not possible for the President of the Local Government Board to extend to Scotland the proposals he intended to lay before the House. He (Mr. Sinclair) was not acquainted with the details of those proposals, but when they had been formulated, and before if possible, he would confer with those who had charge of this matter in Scotland as to the position of that country in the matter, and give it the consideration which he had been asked to give.

*MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.) said he would not have intervened in the debate had it not been for the fact that he came from Leicester, a town which had played a very important part in this movement. For fifteen years they had in Leicester enjoyed perfect immunity, or in other words they had evaded the law. The position of the town of Leicester geographically was an important one, inasmuch as it was situated in what might be termed a cup, and in so far might be described as an insanitary town had not the sanitary authorities there been of opinion that sanitation was very much better than vaccination. They believed vaccination to be neither necessary nor essential, and as a consequence the people as a whole had studied this question very carefully. They found that complete sanitation was much better than either inoculation or vaccination, and they had done their best to make the town as sanitary as possible. The suggestion was made that the time would come when Leicester would be visited by an epidemic, not of their own production, but one imported from a vaccinated town. The birth-rate of Leicester for the last twenty years had been about 6,000 a year, and the proportion of that number which had been vaccinated had not been 230 per year. The medical officer had told him that he might take it that Leicester was an absolutely unvaccinated town. When the epidemic came they had 250 cases and only fifteen deaths, and the outcome of the epidemic made such an impression upon the mind of the medical officer that he had arrived at the conclusion that vaccination was not necessary for the town except when an epidemic was in progress. If they could convince medical men as to the necessity of sanitation, and if it were true that they could not get the great towns to perfect their sanitary conditions, it was a matter in which the Local Government Board should exercise more pressure. Had the late President of the Local Government Board been in his place he would have asked him whether he had made any suggestion with regard to the sanitation of Leicester that had not been adopted. He was glad to be able to make these statements with regard to Leicester, because that town had been much quoted throughout the country. They had converted the Local Government Board to the fact that sanitation was the best policy, that it was better to have covered grids in the streets instead of open ones, and that they should be closed and sealed, and a ventilation shaft erected. This policy had since been adopted by the Local Government Board, and they had converted the Board in other matters also. One hon. Gentleman had suggested that if they took their minds back to the old days they would come to the conclusion that vaccination prevented smallpox. It would have been a great advantage if, when he quoted Sheffield as a vaccinated borough, the hon. Gentleman could have given the House more particular information. It had been stated that 3,079 unvaccinated persons had died out of 100,000, but he would ask whether the hon. Gentleman was satisfied that those 3,079 persons had never at any time been vaccinated, because immediately the fact was driven home to the medical faculty that these persons had been vaccinated they always contended that they were unvaccinated unless vaccination had been performed within seven years. So far as the Leicester epidemic was concerned he could say definitely and defy contradiction that several of the fifteen that did die had been vaccinated.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) said he had listened carefully to the debate, and was somewhat alarmed at the position in which this vaccination question stood. The debate had shown the power of a small resolute minority, who were persistent in their efforts, who ignored all the salient facts of the case, and who argued from a false sentiment; and it was evidence of the pitch of artificial importance to which such a minority could bring this or any other question. He was unfortunately old enough to remember the days when vaccination was not. He happened to be one of the last who was inoculated and had smallpox as they did have after inoculation, but when in a state of health. Those who were old enough to remember the days before vaccination came into use would remember what the state of things was then, when one in every seven or eight persons they met among the population was marked with smallpox, and many of them disfigured. When he heard such arguments as those used by the hon. Member who had just sat down as to sanitation being the remedy, he could only reply that sanitation was, of course, a palliative of all diseases. No doubt the more perfect the sanitation was the better. When, however, they had a scientific preventive presented to them it seemed to him a very short-sighted policy to interfere with it. He was quite aware that before the recent improvements at the Local Government Board there was great cause for complaint of some liability to danger. When vaccination was taken from one arm to another it was quite possible that besides immunity from smallpox there might be diseases introduced into the system of the child, but by the action of the Local Government Board every possibility of that kind had disappeared. As he understood, no vaccination took place at the present time except with pure lymph from the calf. That being so, how was it possible to transmit disease from one child to another? He would not labour the point. He remembered when this question came up before the House twenty-five years ago, and he remembered the medical evidence that was given on it—evidence of perhaps the greatest authority of his day, Lord Playfair, who convinced the House over and over again of the perilous course which the anti-vaccinator was pursuing. He had no hope of persuading any anti-vaccinator upon this question. He had friends full of common sense on every other point, men whom he listened to with respect on other matters, but with whom one could not argue on this question. One might as well argue with a brick wall. It was a question which with them was a fixed one, their opinion upon which they would hold until they died. He asked the House and the President of the Local Government Board to consider the millions of children whose safety would be affected. He asked them, as the nation was now practically immune from what in former days was a terrible scourge, not to interfere with the present position of the vaccination laws, or to open up any road of danger by going back to the old state of things. The hon. Member for West Wolverhampton had spoken of sanitation, but he asked the President of the Local Government Board to look this matter in the face not from the point of view of the fanatic, who looked at the matter from a purely sentimental point of view. He likened the anti-vaccinator to the prisoner who was in a dark cell, into which all the light he had came from a little chink in the wall, and who, when they proposed to pull the prison down, begged them not to do so lest the chink should disappear and he should lose the little light he had. He had a great respect for anti-vaccinators, because he knew that as a rule they were most estimable men upon every other question. It was said that all men were insane upon one particular point, and that might be so, but he would appeal to those Members of the House who were not more than usually insane and ask them to hesitate before they took a step, the effect of which might not be seen yet, but which, if it resulted in the infecting of the nation, might end in this scourge overcoming us and sweeping away whole populations. We were safe now, and for his part he could not understand what argument could be brought against vaccination. It was quite true there was the alternative policy of sanitation and other remedies, but why not carry these on as well as the preventive that had borne the brunt of the day, and had shown itself to be effective in saving, not only the lives, but what was almost as important so far as half the population was concerned, the faces of millions of the people from being marked and scarred. What the anti-vaccinator wanted to do was to do away with vaccination altogether. Surely that was a very great step to take in the face of the highest scientific medical evidence of the last thirty years. Most of the medical evidence given on the other side was given by faddists rather than by scientific men. If hon. Members went to the highest authorities of the past they would find that that evidence was based, not on sentiment, but on the result of absolute experience. When he entered the House he had no idea of saying a word on this subject, but when he listened to the inconclusive arguments put forward and saw that the enthusiasm and determination and fixity of purpose were all on one side, he feared the effects that such statements might have. Thus it was with all the blessings we enjoyed. If they were universal no one said a word in their favour, but if a defect was shown in any one of them, there was sure to be a host of people to come up and complain, and to suggest that the blessing itself should be destroyed. He implored the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board, whatever concession he might make, not to take that fatal step which might result in years to come in our becoming an infected nation.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Dr. MACNAMARA, Camberwell, N.) said his right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board last night made a very important statement. He did not think the right hon. Gentleman lay under any charge because his statement was short, for he had simply made it brief in the belief that there was a desire to close the debate last night. Whilst the statement which the Minister made was a most interesting one, it involved this serious consequence for him, that the President had exhausted his right to speak that day, and therefore it was that he himself had to come to that box for the first time, to speak upon one of the most controversial and one of the most complicated questions within the whole range of public problems. The matter, however, had been so recently and so fully debated in that House that he need not go into the merits of the case for and against vaccination. Indeed, if he endeavoured to do so, he would find himself in considerable difficulty. The expert anti-vaccinator got up and bombarded him with absolutely irrefutable statistics proving vaccination to be a barbarous and silly operation, fraught with real danger to the health of the person on whom it was performed.

Immediately on his sitting down, up got an expert pro-vaccinator, who bombarded him with figures showing that vaccination was of vital necessity to the health of the community. India and Germany were vigorously claimed by both parties to prove their case. The most convincing statistics were given by both sides, and he confessed that he knew none more perplexing, unless it might be those of tariff reform. In his infancy, his parents, in their wisdom, had him vaccinated, but neither party was entitled to claim him on that account, because it was a matter over which he had had no control one way or the other. But as he had listened to the speech last night of his hon. friend the Member for Sleaford he really felt that he ought to have died a hundred horrible deaths because of that early operation. On the other hand, the speech of his hon. and learned friend the Member for Kingston went far to convince him that but for his having been vaccinated the odds were that he would not have been there that day to tell the tale. The solid fact was, however, that from 1853 onwards there had been a growing irritation on the part of the working classes against compulsory vaccination. His own view, taking it for what it was worth, was that what ultimately became a protest against the thing itself, originated to a large extent from a well-founded objection to the way in which it was carried out. Poor people, he knew, took the gravest objection to arm-to-arm vaccination, and they were generally treated with scant consideration in the matter. As the House knew, the whole thing culminated in 1889 in the appointment of a Royal Commission, in connection with which they had had such an admirable speech by the hon. Member for West St. Pancras, who had gone fully into the terms of the Commission's Report. The Report of the Commission was presented in 1896, and the majority of the members said—

> "After careful consideration and much study of the subject, we have arrived at the conclusion that it would conduce to increased vaccination if a scheme could be devised which would preclude the attempt (so often a vain one) to compel those who are honestly opposed to the practice, to submit their children to vaccination, and, at the same time, leave the law to operate, as at present, to prevent children remaining unvaccinated owing to the neglect or indifference of the parent."

Then two distinguished medical men, Sir William Guyer Hunter and Dr. Jonathan Hutchinson, went entirely in the opposite direction. They said—

> "We think that in all cases in which a parent or guardian refuses to allow vaccination, the person so refusing should be summoned before a magistrate, as at present, and that the only change made should be to permit the magistrate to accept a sworn deposition of conscientious objection, and to abstain from the infliction of a fine."

A further Report was signed by Mr. Samuel Whitbread, Mr. John A. Bright, Sir W. J. Collins, and Mr. J. Allanson Picton, who strongly and unreservedly rejected the idea of compulsion in any form. Arising out of what Sir Guyer Hunter and Dr. Huchinson reported, they had the legislation of 1898, which caused a great deal of discussion in the country. That legislation gave up, once and for all, compulsory vaccination. There could be no doubt about that, and so with all respect for the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Bordesley Division, he seemed to have overlooked what that legislation did. It provided that—

> "No parent or other person shall be liable to any penalty, under Section 29 or Section 31 of the Vaccination Act of 1867, if within four months from the birth of the child he satisfies two justices, or a stipendiary or Metropolitan police magistrate, in petty sessions, that he conscientiously believes that vaccination would be prejudicial to the health of the child, and within seven days thereafter delivers to the vaccination officer for the district, a certificate by such magistrates of such conscientious objection."

MR. JESSE COLLINGS said he was quite aware of that, but as a matter of fact the state of the law had led to very few exemptions.

*DR. MACNAMARA said it was a matter of interest to state that in 1903 there were 948,353 births, and 37,675 exemptions. That was the result of the state of the law. But it could not be denied that a great many magistrates, challenging the wisdom of this enactment of 1898, deliberately set themselves to make relief under that section as difficult and onerous as possible. They frequently went out of their way to pour ridicule and contumely upon people who sought to avail themselves of the law of 1898, and to inconvenience them in every possible way. In some cases they showed the most contemptible discrimination in the treatment of the poor applicants as compared with the treatment of the rich. All this was clearly not consonant with the letter or even the spirit, of the Act of 1898, and certainly was not contemplated by the Royal Commission. If magistrates were all like the hon. Member for Kingston, who never refused an application, they would not be there that day with the tale they had. On April 25th last year, the hon. Member for Sleaford brought the whole matter before the House on the Motion—

> "That in the opinion of this House vaccination ought no longer to be obligatory on those who regard it as useless or dangerous."

That Motion was ultimately withdrawn on account of the pledges which were given by the President of the Local Government Board. His right hon. friend had last night rehearsed the pledges he had given on that occasion, and, on his behalf, he proposed to repeat those pledges. It was proposed to substitute for the present system under which a parent must obtain a certificate of conscientious objection, a new system which would enable a person who conscientiously objects to vaccination to secure exemption on making an ordinary statutory declaration. His right hon. friend was not in a position to indicate more definitely the nature of his proposal, but it was intended to make the new procedure as little onerous as possible. Having regard to this assurance he trusted his hon. friend would see his way to withdraw the Amendment.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leigh Burghs) said that, if any change of the law with regard to Scotland was in contemplation, full consideration should be given to the state of public opinion in that country in reference to vaccination. No doubt there was a very small minority in Scotland in favour of a change of the law, but he believed that the great preponderance of public opinion there was in favour of its maintenance. Upon the whole, the administration of the Act had been better in Scotland than in England, though there had been some very bad cases in Scotland as well as in England, and the administration of the law ought to have been far better. The methods of enforcing vaccination had left very much to be desired. But in spite of that, on the whole, the compulsory law had been upheld by public opinion in Scotland, and he did not believe that there was any large section of public opinion in favour of a change. He did not speak personally from any love for vaccination. He had suffered from smallpox, though he had been repeatedly vaccinated, and really the cure seemed to be about as bad as the disease. Nevertheless, though the methods left a great deal to be desired, he frankly supported the existing law as being in favour of compulsory vaccination. He would ask his right hon. friend to consider very fully the state of public opinion in Scotland before introducing any legislation which might render apparent to that public opinion that they were less insistent upon every precaution being taken against small-pox.

*MR. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said he entirely disagreed with the hon. Member who had just spoken. In that part of Scotland with which he was acquainted and which he represented, the feeling was very strong indeed, not so much against a properly administered system of vaccination as against compulsion. The people felt that if compulsion was not required in England, it was certainly not necessary in Scotland. What they were insisting upon was that they should have the same relaxation of the rigour of the law as was allowed in England. It was claimed that exemptions which were statutorily permitted in England, ought to be allowed in Scotland. At the present moment there was no such thing as a statutory objector in Scotland. That was pathetically illustrated by a letter which he received from an exasperated parent who had lost his child through vaccination—

> "I am compelled by law to allow them to kill my child, but in England a man may save the life of his child by paying a fine.

That was the position taken up by a very large number of people in Scotland, and they wanted a guarantee that whatever treatment was meted out to England in the coming Bill should also be meted out to Scotland, and he warned the right hon. Gentleman in a friendly way, that, if he was unable to give that guarantee and carry it out, his chance at the next general election would be very small.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) said that, although the statement and promise made by the Government did not go so far as some of them wished, it did go a very considerable length to meet their views. That a person should obtain exemption by making an ordinary statutory declaration was the provision which in the debates on the Bill of 1898 he and his friends sought to obtain. That, however, was refused them. They were put off with the statement that going before a magistrate would be a purely formal matter. Experience had falsified that assurance, and had shown that persons who made applications to magistrates had been treated with the utmost contumely and contempt; and that the whole process had been made particularly odious to the applicants. All that would have been avoided if, at that time, there had been instituted procedure by ordinary statutory declaration instead of the present method. Having regard to the promises that had been made, he ventured to appeal to his hon. friend to withdraw his Amendment.

*MR. LUPTON said that after the pronouncements of the President and of the Secretary of the Local Government Board, he was glad, at any rate, that some instalment of what the country desired had been promised, and he hoped more would be conceded. He would ask leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

*MR. HAROLD COX (Preston) rose to move the addition of the following words to the Address, "And we humbly submit to your Majesty that, in accordance with the precedent of 1902, it is desirable that the first Question to be laid before the delegates from your Majesty's Colonies at the coming Colonial Conference should be the importance of the fuller participation by the Colonies in the cost of defending your Majesty's dominions." He did not think he need apologise to the House for bringing this matter before them. Its importance, he was convinced, was recognised fully by both sides of the House, and he would only venture to quote the opinion of two distinguished Members of the Party opposite. He quoted the opinion of the late Secretary for War the Member for Croydon, whose illness they all regretted. The right hon. Gentleman wrote—

"The system of imposing the whole burden of Imperial Defence upon the shoulders of the British taxpayer is absurd in theory and unjust in practice. But it is certain that unless the facts be clearly stated, and frequently brought under the attention of those whom they most concern, the absurdity will never be removed nor the injustice abated."

In December, 1904, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, now Viscount St Aldwyn, on the occasion of a deputation on the subject to the then Prime Minister, said—

"It was the primary duty of the Government to put this in the foreground as the most urgent and essential matter for consideration."

One of the most important facts in connection with this subject was contained in a statement by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies on the 29th of March of last year, when he said that the total military and naval expenditure of the United Kingdom was £66,000,000, while the total naval and military expenditure of the Colonies was £887,000. The discrepancy was enormous. It might be said, however, that we were richer, and that our population was greater, than was the case with our Colonies. But how much? Our revenue in the year ending 29th March, 1896, was £143,000,000, and that of the Colonies £85,000,000, some of which was of a local character. Making a large deduction on this account, they could safely put the Colonial revenue at £70,000,000, so that the revenue of the Colonies was about half as much as ours. Taking the proportion of revenue the Colonies ought to contribute 50 per cent. of the cost of imperial defence; taking population, we should have a contribution of 25 per cent. from the Colonies, instead of which they paid 1·3 per cent.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Does that apply to the whole of the Colonies, including the Crown Colonies and India?

*MR. HAROLD COX: It does not include India. In taking the population comparison, he thought they must all admit that it would be quite unfair to limit the comparison to white colonists. In Natal, for example, nearly all the real work of the Colony was done by the coloured people. Upon this matter of Colonial contribution some progress had been made within the last few years, and at any rate the principle had been adopted that military defence should be left to the Colonies themselves. That principle had been carried out in Australia and more recently in the case of Canada. It would have been carried out earlier in Canada if a strong line had been taken up and if the Government had insisted that the British garrison should be withdrawn from Halifax and Esquimalt. It was only by the War Office taking up a strong line that this scandal of England having to pay for the garrison of two Canadian towns had been brought to an end. With regard to South Africa, in February last our military establishment there was costing £2,400,000 a year, and towards that expenditure the whole of the South African Colonies contributed only £4,000 a year, and all that came from the little Colony of Natal. When the Cameron Highlanders were sent not long ago to Maritzburg the cost was £245 per day. Therefore it would be seen that the whole of the Natal contribution towards military expenditure was swallowed up in sixteen days by the Cameron Highlanders alone. With regard to the Crown Colonies they were still garrisoned at our expense. Mauritius had a garrison which had cost this country £101,000 ten years ago. For some reason or other the cost of that garrison had now gone up to £279,000. What had been the contribution of Mauritius towards that expenditure? It used to be £18,000 a year, but now it had risen to £28,000. Consequently, this country was paying ten times as much as the Colony itself for a purely local garrison. The case of Singapore was somewhat better, because Lord Ripon there insisted upon a substantial contribution of £209,000 towards a total cost of £246,000; but, nevertheless, this country was still left responsible for a considerable sum. In Ceylon the state of things was about the same. With regard to Jamaica, while sympathising with the island in its recent misfortune, he wished to point out that England still maintained a garrison there at a cost of £200,000 a year towards which Jamaica did not contribute a single penny. Passing on to naval defence, so far from the principle he had been laying down being accepted, that the Colonies should maintain their own defence, nothing had yet been done to get any substantial contributions towards what was, after all, the main defence of the Empire. With regard to sea power, both Parties had accepted the doctrine that our Empire was held together by the Navy, and that as long as the supremacy of the Navy was maintained the Empire was safe. That being so, surely the Colonies as well as the Mother-country ought to contribute to the Navy. There was no reason at all why the starving peasants of Connaught should have to pay for the naval defence of Australia. Some Australians themselves recognised this principle. Sir John Forrest, the Australian Defence Minister, drew up an important memorandum dealing with the whole question of Imperial defence, in which he said—

> "So long as the sea supremacy of the Mother-country is maintained Australia is fairly secure from invasion. The position we occupy in Australia to-day in being all-British territory, and in having always enjoyed peace and security, is absolutely attributable to the protection given to us by the British flag."

With regard to Canada the position of that country was rather peculiar. Canada was defended not only by the British Navy but also by the American Navy, owing to the Monroe doctrine. Therefore, Canada relied upon two navies and paid for neither. But that was not all. The Canadians must admit that the strength of the British Navy was of considerable importance to them in any negotiations they had with the United States. Moreover, the British Navy was actually employed in doing police work for the Canadians. Certain ships were detailed for the protection of the Canadian fisheries, and yet the Canadians did not contribute anything towards the cost of those ships. He would like, for a moment, to institute a comparison between Canada and Mexico. Mexico had to maintain a very large army for her defence, and her defence expenditure was five times as great as that of Canada. While England would be bound to help Canada in time of need, Canada could not possibly help this country if the necessity arose. The need for Canada to help this country would arise if we were attacked by a combination of navies, and Canada, having no navy, would not be able to come to our aid. On the other hand, as long as this country maintained its naval supremacy, we could pour men into Canada to help her in case of need. In the little Colony of Newfoundland the late Government undertook to establish a branch of the Royal Naval Reserve at a cost of £18,400, to which the Colony contributed £3,000. With regard to

Australia the position, although nominally better than Canada, was really worse, because the Australian contribution was intended to be for purely local defence. Lord Carrington, who was the Governor of New South Wales in 1887, stated that the Australian contribution would have been refused unless the ships had been confined to Australian waters. It was true that the Australian waters, by the agreement of 1902, included the India and China Stations, but the view in Australiá was that the Australian squadron was for Australian local defence. Under the agreement of 1902 the contribution from Australia and New Zealand had been increased from £126,000 a year to £240,000 a year. That, however, was not really an increase in the expenditure upon defence by the Colonies. In October, 1902, Sir E. Barton said—

> "No extra cost to Australia would be involved. The Commonwealth will be relieved of the expense of training local seamen which will be done at the cost of the Imperial Government. There will also be an increase in the subsidy paid to the Australians under training."

So that, although there was nominally an increase, the Australians got a *quid pro quo* which more than covered what they contributed. Under the Agreement of 1902 arrangements were made for giving positions to Australians in the Army and Navy, but there was no reciprocity whatever in the matter, and neither Australia nor Canada gave any kind of preferential employment to citizens from England, Scotland, or Ireland. The whole attitude of Australia was to keep all employment, military and civil, for Australians born. Upon this point the *Melbourne Age* said—

> "Except for an occasional visit of inspection for special purposes no British officer will again exercise influence or authority in this land. Every regiment will have an Australian at its head and every fortress an Australian-born commander."

That really meant "Australia for the Australians, Canada for the Canadians, and England for the Empire." What was the position at present? There was an Australian squadron intended for local purposes, to which the Australians contributed £240,000 a year, while the cost was £670,000 a year. So that the Australian contribution was really a minus quantity. It should not be forgotten that, but for our Navy, Australia would be at the mercy of Japan, or of Germany, or of a regenerated China inspired with the European doctrine of grab. Why should this country be compelled to subscribe money to relieve wealthy communities in Australia and Canada of what was after all their primary duty, namely, the defence of their own country? By our relieving them of this primary duty these Colonies were enabled to spend money upon things which we could not afford. The main obstacle to old-age pensions in this country was that the taxpayer could not afford them. In Australia they had old-age pensions.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): And they have no poor-houses.

*Mr. HAROLD COX: Possibly not, but the point is that their old-age pensions are paid for with our money. The tariffs adopted by Australia and Canada against English goods were often more hostile than the tariffs of foreign countries. During the past fifty years our Empire had been expanding in every quarter of the globe, and yet we continued to export to foreign countries twice as much as we exported to all our possessions put together. Of course our greatest market was India, but she paid for her own defence and she had never even asked for preferential tariff. If he confined his figures to the self-governing Colonies which did not pay for their own defence and yet imposed hostile tariffs against British goods, he found that they only took one-tenth of the goods exported by this country. Not only did those Colonies exclude British goods, but they also excluded British subjects. In this respect there was an incident so significant of Australian feeling that he thought it was desirable the facts should be known. Many hon. Members might recollect that some years ago six hatters were not allowed to land in Sydney for over a week. Commenting upon this incident the *Sydney Bulletin*, one of the most influential papers in Australia, said—

> "The right of Australia has been once for all established definitely to keep out of this Continent English-born citizens if in her own interests she so chooses."

Although England paid for the defence of the great Colony of Australia yet the Australians claimed the right to exclude British people from that country.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Can the hon. Member for Preston quote one other single case?

*MR. HAROLD COX said the quotation he had read from the *Sydney Bulletin* was written after the hatters had been admitted, and his point was that this quotation, though based on only one concrete case, laid down a general principle. It was not only English-born subjects that were excluded, because the self-governing colonies excluded other British subjects equally loyal with themselves. He referred to the insulting regulations with regard to British Indian subjects in South Africa. It should be remembered in this respect that not only did India pay for her own defence, but she also contributed largely to the defence of the Empire. It was the regiments maintained on the Indian establishment that saved Natal from invasion. When he was in India he was immensely impressed with the strong personal loyalty to the British Throne of all Indians he met. One student he met happened to be reading in some Radical organ a suggestion as to the abolition of the Monarchy, and he came to him in great distress and asked what it meant and inquired whether England was going to establish a Republic. He told this student that he need not take the journal in question very seriously. The student went away remarking "I can only tell you if ever those Radicals in England put the Queen off the Throne we will raise an army in India and put her on again." He would like now to deal briefly with the Colonial arguments against contributing to Imperial defence. The first argument they used was that England would have to pay for the defence of her commerce in any case. Surely where trade was reciprocal between us and our Colonies it was as much their duty to pay as it was ours. If he took a cab with some other hon. Member it would be extremely mean if one refused to contribute towards the fare on the ground that the other would have had to pay for the cab whether he had been accompanied or not.

MR. W. REDMOND: It is very often done.

*MR. HAROLD COX said he was quite sure the hon. Member opposite would not do it. No less than 25 per cent. of the sea-borne trade of the Empire had no connection whatever with the United Kingdom. Consequently it was not fair to charge the tax-payers of the United Kingdom with any part of the cost of the defence of that trade. In addition there was another 8 per cent. representing half of the reciprocal trade between the United Kingdom and her other possessions over sea. Therefore the Colonies and India ought to pay the whole cost of defending 33 per cent. of the sea-borne trade of the Empire. What was their actual contribution? The actual contribution of the Colonies and India towards naval expenditure was only 2 per cent. of the total, and the bulk of that 2 per cent. was contributed not by the self-governing Colonies at all but by India, although India maintained a huge army which was always at the service of the Empire. Another Colonial argument against contributing was that preferential tariffs were an equitable return for the absence of any contribution to Imperial defence. The Australian preferential tariff was practically worthless. Canada was the only Colony which gave a substantial preferential tariff. The duties paid on British goods were £2,000,000 a year. That was 33 per cent. less than the duties which would have been charged on the same goods if they had been foreign goods. If the goods had been foreign the duties would have amounted to £3,000,000. But if we were to credit Canada with the £1,000,000 which she did not levy on our goods, we must also debit her with the £2,000,000 which she did levy. We had practically to bear a burden of £2,000,000 in order to obtain a remission of £1,000,000, which was hardly good business. He might be told that we got trade which otherwise we should not get. He maintained that even that argument would not hold water. Before preferential tariffs were imposed we had one-third of the trade of Canada, and since then we had had only one-fourth. It was American trade which had gone ahead most since the imposition of the Canadian preferential tariff. Then it was said that the Colonies were too poor to afford to pay for their defence. That was an argument that we had never been able to afford to use. If our ancestors had ventured to use such an argument there would have been no British Empire to-day. It was said also that the Colonies were too young. On that point he thought he could not do better than quote the words of a Member of this House, the absence of whose vivifying personality they deeply deplored. Speaking on this question at the Colonial Conference in 1902, the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham said—

> "While the Colonies were young and poor it was perfectly natural, but now that they are rich and powerful, I think it is inconsistent with their dignity as nations that they should leave the Mother-country to bear the whole, or almost the whole, of the expense. . . . If the whole strain is to be thrown on one stick, there is very little advantage of putting them into a bundle."

The right hon. Gentleman went on to say—

> "This is a state of things which cannot be permanent."

That was his own proposition to-day. The right hon. Gentleman also said—

> "No empire is on a sure foundation which is not based on a community of sacrifices."

Was there a community of sacrifices? Was it a fact that the Colonies sacrificed anything like the amount we did for the common defence of the Empire? Every inhabitant of the United Kingdom paid 29s. 3d. for defence, every Canadian 2s., and every Australian 3s. Then it was said by apologists for the Colonies that they had no representation. Representation had been repeatedly offered and refused. The Colonies did not wish to risk their independence by being involved in a common Imperial Parliament. We had to face the fact that under the existing condition of things the Colonies would not pay for their own defence, and still less would they contribute for the common defence of the Empire. The utmost offer they had ever made was to help us in time of need, if they chose to do so. Was it possible to make a more unfair offer, seeing that we were under obligation to help them under all circumstances? The position was not equal, and, therefore, he believed if that was their last word, we should have reached an *impasse*. He hoped that was not the case. For 300 years this nation had been throwing off shoots which had taken root in distant soil. We had watched these branches grow, we were proud of their origin, proud of their growth, and proud to call them ours. He thought we, as a nation, would deeply regret it if we were compelled to say to them "Good-bye." But we must have a frank explanation. There was no use going on glossing over the facts. We must not treat the Colonies as children, we must treat them as partners. But before we could do that we must look frankly at their standpoint as well as our own. He did not think he could do better than quote the *Melbourne Age* which, on October 20th, 1902, commenting on the Australian standpoint, said—

> "We have, as a people, expressed our preference for the gradual formation of an Australian Navy. We have very little confidence in the wisdom either of the British War Office or of the Admiralty. . . We shall then stand in line with Canada in undertaking the beginning of our own naval defence, rather than adopting the centralised policy of the British Empire."

In a word, the Colonies preferred to spend their own money in their own way. From the strategical and economic point of view that was probably a mistake. He believed that the most economical way of defending the British Empire was to have one central Navy, but there were other considerations that must be borne in mind. He did not believe that we should ever get the Colonies to contribute to a central Navy. Their ideal was national independence, and he did not think we could blame them for having that ideal when we remembered that they had our blood in their veins.

Then what could we do? What he thought we might do was to open negotiations with the Colonies for a partnership upon strictly defined and equitable terms. He ventured to submit the analogy which we had in the case of Japan. We had a partnership, limited it was true to five years, but it was a partnership equitable so long as it endured. During that time our alliance with Japan was infinitely more valuable to us than that with the Colonies, because Japan had a force which the Colonies had not. We wanted the partnership with the Colonies to be permanent, and also our hope was that they would always be proud of the flag which we had given to them. In order to attain this ideal we should cease to treat the Colonies as children, and begin to treat them as partners. He thought we should have, so far as the self-governing Colonies were concerned, to drop the word "Empire," because that implied external dominion. The phrase we should use, and the ideal at which we should aim, was a free confederacy of sister nations.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.), in seconding the Amendment, said this was a matter of considerable delicacy, because we could not dictate to the Colonies, but he did not think an intimation that on the whole we were not very well treated by them would do any harm. The matter should be brought before the Colonial Conference, and at all events form the subject of argument. He had visited Canada, and when there he had talked a great deal with the ordinary "man in the street," who, referring to this matter of Imperial defence said: "Why should we pay for anything which we can get for nothing?" Still he had always found the Canadians reasonable, and he thought the present discussion would tend to clear the air. He believed the appeal to their good feeling and sense of loyalty would show the Colonies that they should come to our help in the matter of expenditure, especially in regard to the Navy. There was a feeling, no doubt, in the Colonies, and particularly in Australia, that so far as naval defence was concerned, they ought to have a navy of their own, which would be under their own control. He sympathised with that feeling, and he did not see why the idea should not be carried out. A similar feeling existed in Canada. He did not see that there would be any harm in that, so long as the navies which might be established worked in harmony with our own. The suggestion that the Colonies should participate in the cost of Imperial defence was one which we must leave entirely to the good sense and loyalty of the Colonies. He was sure if we did this we should not be disappointed.

Amendment proposed—

"At end to add, 'And we humbly submit to Your Majesty that, in accordance with the precedent of 1902, it is desirable that the first question to be laid before the delegates from Your Majesty's Colonies at the coming Colonial Conference should be the importance of the fuller participation by the Colonies in the cost of defending Your Majesty's Dominions.'"—(*Mr. Harold Cox.*)

Mr. Harold Cox.

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): I do not suppose there can be any objection to bringing before the Colonies, though not in the words of the Amendment, the problem of Imperial defence—a problem in which the Colonies are quite as much interested as is the Mother-Country. But I hope it will not be brought forward at the Conference in anything like the terms which appear to be suggested by the Mover of the Amendment. I acquit the hon. Member for Preston of the least indifference to the existence of the British Empire, which, however, he desires to dissolve into a collection of allied states. I am sure in his heart he does not wish to weaken the bonds between us and our Colonies. Nevertheless there ran through all his speech, and especially through the earlier part of it, an apparent desire to deal in the spirit of a "debtor and creditor account" with the Colonies with regard to the whole subject of national defence, to ask each Colony what is the exact pecuniary equivalent of the defensive power for which we pay, to ask them to take that equivalent upon their shoulders and to deal with the problem of Imperial defence rather in a strictly bargaining spirit than in that spirit of free interchange of services between different parts of the Empire which after all is, and ought to be, one of the greatest links between them. Even stated in the strictly commercial manner which commends itself to the hon. Gentleman, I am not sure that the Colonies would not find it very easy to make serious holes in his argument. His argument ran somewhat in this form. The whole cost of the Fleet as well as the whole cost of the Army falls upon the British taxpayer. [AN HON. MEMBER: "India."] India and the British taxpayer. Practically the whole cost of the Fleet falls upon the British taxpayer.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): And the Irish taxpayer.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, there is unfortunately no single word—I will say the taxpayer of the United Kingdom.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: That is a little better, but not much.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will make it perfect by saying on the taxpayer of the still United Kingdom. The benefit of the Fleet, however, is largely enjoyed by the Colonies. Each Colony gets its fraction of advantage; each Colony, therefore, should pay its fraction of the cost. That put very concisely was, as I understood it, the argument ably developed by the hon. Gentleman, and of course there was an element of truth in it. But by how many first class battleships would the hon. Gentleman desire to reduce the Fleet if by any mischance the Colonies were to declare themselves independent; how many fewer battleships would be required to defend the coasts of this country; and how many fewer cruisers would be required to defend the commerce of this country? I do not believe that our Naval Estimates would be diminished by a farthing if we lost Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the Cape to-morrow. I quite agree with the hon. Gentleman that it does not settle the question, but it surely does not leave it open to us to say, "We are bearing a burden too heavy for us. You gain from it, you ought to help us to sustain it." We have to sustain it whether they help us or not. If they chose, as they well might choose, to take part of that burden upon themselves, that is another matter; but the idea that our taxes would be relieved, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would have an easier job to deal with, that we should have money for old-age pensions and for the payment of Members of Parliament—those are the two cases which the hon. Gentleman chose——

*MR. HAROLD COX: May I interrupt the right hon. Gentleman? I said that the Australians were able to pay for old-age pensions because we pay for their defence. I did not suggest that our expenditure upon defence would necessarily be reduced.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Well, I am very glad that the hon. Gentleman does not suggest that, but surely his speech did. He never dwelt upon the fact that I have dwelt upon, which is that the cost of our Fleet would not be diminished, even if we lost those Colonies which are, in my opinion, our glory and the great strength and support of our Empire. But really that is not the whole case, though I think it is a very important part of the case. It is quite true that the Colonies get from us for nothing a great strength and a great security. But they also, through their connection with us, do run some dangers from which otherwise they might be free. The hon. Gentleman has conjured up the possibility of attacks upon New Zealand and Australia by Germany, by Japan, or by a regenerated China, if we were not there to act as their protectors, and I quite agree. I think the problem which the Australian and New Zealand statesmen would have to consider would be profoundly modified if they were left entirely to their own resources. But let the House remember that the British Empire touches world-politics at a very large number of points, which do not directly concern either New Zealand or Australia except in so far as the inhabitants of New Zealand and Australia are citizens of the Empire as a whole. They have no direct connection with all the complicated questions which arise with regard to the Continent of Europe, the problems of the Near East, the problems of which Egypt is the centre, the problems of which China, India, and the Far East are the centres. We may at any moment be involved in a conflict with some first-class Power, which does not obviously concern the interests of Canada, New Zealand, or Australia, and all the dangers that we run from such a conflict they have to run, because they are part of the Empire of which we are the head. Therefore, though it be true that we bear the whole cost of the Fleet and a very large part of the cost of the Army, and that they profit in many of their relations by that fact, they have, from the very nature of the case, and because they belong to this world-wide Empire—because they belong to a community which touches other nations at points in every continent of the world—they have to run dangers which, were they self-contained, small, and isolated communities they would, for that very reason, altogether escape. If that be true, I think the case is not so clear, is not so simple, as the speech of the hon. Gentleman would suggest. But I have another set of considerations which very briefly—for I do not intend to detain the House—I will put forward as a vital and important part of this problem. In one portion of his speech the hon. Member indicated very clearly that he is quite alive to the fact that if the forces of the

Empire are to be turned to the best strategical account they must be under a central control, and that control must of necessity be, on account of preponderance in population and wealth, in these islands. What is the corollary of that? The corollary is that if we are to make these great self-governing colonies contribute efficiently to national defence they must in effect become contributors to our Naval and Military Estimates. In other words, when the Secretary of State for War and the First Lord of the Admiralty lay their Estimates on the Table, they must in form and substance contain a contribution in aid from the self-governing colonies; that is the only way, under the existing system, in which the money of the Colonies could be really efficiently used. But are we seriously going to ask the taxpayers of Canada, of Australia, of New Zealand or the Cape, to vote in their respective Chambers money which somebody else is going to spend? It really is an impossible proposition; you cannot ask it. You might—and it has been done—suggest to the self-governing colonies that they should provide an army and a fleet adequate for their own defence, and that when we are involved in war they should put that army and that fleet entirely under the control of our generals and admirals. Is that at all likely under a treaty with this country? I do not think it is. My right hon. friend beside me reminds me that they do something of the kind, but of course I am talking of contributions on the scale suggested by the hon. Member for Preston. I am quite sure they would not, and I am sure that we, arguing as representatives of Colonies having free representative Assemblies, would not, contemplate such an arrangement. But I turn from that, which is beside my main argument, and I ask whether, instead of a contribution to the Estimates, we should enter into a kind of treaty arrangement whereby the Colonies should provide ships and troops and hand these over to our military authorities in the event of Imperial complications arising. That is a far more possible proposal than the other, but I deprecate earnestly any attempt, I will not say to force it, for we could not enforce it—I deprecate even the pressing of it. I should view with the deepest misgiving the proceeding of any Government of this country who went to the Colonies and said, "You are not doing your duty to the Empire unless you spend money on ships and men and are ready to put these under a central control, which must be British in time of war." I do not believe that can be done, or ever will be done, until you have some more centralised organisation by which all parts of our scattered Empire are combined into one more highly organised body. I do not think there can be such a political union as is suggested. I do not believe that public opinion in any part of the Empire is ripe for it. I do not believe it would be approved in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or elsewhere, or, when the population of this country realise that they, in their turn, would have to give up for this central political organisation some part of the independent power they now possess, that it would receive commendation in the United Kingdom. I therefore, though I would never suggest that the idea of closer political relations should be abandoned, say, as a practical politician, it is not now in sight and is not worth discussing in an Assembly which has naught to do with remote developments which may come in our Constitution, and is concerned with more immediate problems which press upon us at the present time. Not until that closer organisation comes, and until the machinery is devised by which foreign and Imperial affairs can be discussed by some body beyond the Parliament of this country or the Parliaments of the self-governing colonies, can you expect it. How can we expect that the whole management of military and naval forces paid for by the self-governing colonies can be handed over to an authority responsible only to the Parliament of this country? I am sure if we ask for it we shall not get it. I for my part desire, so far as the problem of national defence is concerned, to submit that in all the affairs which are necessarily incident to the very loose organisation of the British Empire there are advantages and disadvantages. It is a disadvantage, for instance, that, in case of Imperial danger in a conflict between this country and any great naval or military nation, we should, no doubt, so far as the Colonies are concerned, have to rely on their voluntary assistance. But I think—nay, I am quite sure—it is better to rely on that voluntary assistance than to attempt to give to it that rigid involuntary character which naval and military authorities would legitimately like, because it would enable them to count upon a certain force at any particular point. I am sure we should get more out of colonial loyal, voluntary enthusiasm than we should by any attempt at a hard and fast organisation. I believe that when naval and military authorities express a desire, as they often have, that there should be an absolutely fixed and rigid system which would enable so many troops to be ready at the Cape, so many in Australia, and so many ships provided by the self-governing colonies—if they could get this on paper, which they never would—if they got this on paper, it would come absolutely to naught unless we had with us the enthusiasm of the Colonies, in the unhappy event I am supposing of our being in conflict with some great Power. Put what you like on paper, if the Colonies objected, if they thought we were wrongly engaged in the quarrel with another great Power, you would not get that assistance you thought you had a right to count upon. The only method is to trust to voluntary patriotic enthusiasm; you cannot have anything more rigid and systematic until you unite the several communities of the Empire into a rigid systematic organisation. That system is not in sight, and will not be for long years, and, until it is, do not let us talk of this illusory scheme of rigid, fixed contributions for the defence of the Empire from self-governing colonies, but let us trust in the future, as we have trusted in the past, and as I hope we ever may with increasing confidence, to that feeling of Imperial patriotism which is no monopoly of citizens of the Empire living in these islands, but is shared to the full by our fellow citizens in every quarter of the globe.

*MR. CHURCHILL (Manchester, N.W.): I hope I may without presumption say, that the speech to which we have just listened from the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition seemed to me, as it must have seemed to a good many Members on this side of the House, to be inspired throughout by most profound political wisdom. My hon. friend the Member for Preston has an intellectual predilection for the unfashionable aspect of things. Whether in Imperial or domestic affairs, he always takes the shortest, straightest course which will secure his being in a position of serene isolation. But I only do justice to my hon. friend, and I think the House will agree with me, when I say that he always expresses his views with so much knowledge and so much conviction and courage that his contributions to our debates are always very welcome, and perhaps all the more welcome from the strong contrast he presents to the prevailing currents of opinion. My hon. friend finds, no doubt, a great deal of support in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham at the Colonial Premiers' Conference of 1902, and I am bound to say that almost every argument which was put forward by my hon. friend this afternoon finds countenance and support in the statements, or a great number of them, made by that right hon. Gentleman to the Colonial Premiers, which will be found in the Blue-book recording the proceedings of that Conference. I am not at all prepared to say that the point of view put forward by my hon. friend is not pertinent to many of the controversies with which we now have to deal. Our affection for the Colonies and our pride in these great democratic communities, which are so often the pioneers in adventurous social experiments, and which are dear to the hearts of men of all Parties in this country, prompt us to dwell not so much upon the services we render them as upon the strength and confidence their presence lends to the mother country. But when we consider them those services are very great indeed. Apart from all this great question of defence both by sea and, in some measure, by land, which is the subject of the Amendment we are now discussing, there are the resources of British diplomacy, which, I venture to think, while they may not always secure for the Colonies all that they would desire, nearly always secure, at all events, far better terms than they would be able to make unaided for themselves. There are the large resources, amply used, of British credit, which have enormously stimulated, and are at the present day rapidly stimulating, the development of these Colonies, and there are all those sentimental considerations, which they certainly do not undervalue, associated with Windsor Castle and with Westminster Abbey. I think it right that that should be occasionally stated, but I certainly agree with the right hon. Gentleman who has just sat down that we should be wrong if we tried, either on our part or on their part, to measure the money value of the services exchanged between us. Still less ought we, I think, to try to draw invidious comparisons between the contributions made on either side or the benefits which are reciprocally interchanged. Our view, on this side of the House, and I think in a great measure on both sides of the House, is that the British Empire is not a business proposition, and must not be looked upon in that light. It is based on the principles of a family and not on the principles of a syndicate, and we decline to haggle and bargain with our children either on the precise amount of their military contribution or upon any matters connected with commercial treaties. On Monday next, when we are to be perhaps reproached with ingratitude for not adding to those great services of which I have spoken, and which impose upon us, to some extent, heavy burdens, the additional burden of obstructing our whole system of seaborne trade by the erection of a tariff round the shores of the United Kingdom—when we are to be reproached with ingratitude for not adding to those great services what are nothing more nor less than subventions collected in this country by the most inconvenient and cumbrous processes, I think it should then be bòrne in mind that the hon. Member for Preston has brought forward considerations of very great substance and importance. We are put to immense charges in this country, in common with other modern Powers, for military and naval armaments. Those burdens are sensibly felt by all classes in this country, and I think they are felt most severely by the poorest classes, because all social pressures take a downward direction, and it is upon the weak and the poor that the greatest burden of modern States descends. We all realise what an enormous boon and advantage it would be, what great expansion of life, of hope, of joy, there would be in all the cottage homes throughout this land and in India, aye, and in many another land, if we could do something to lighten the burden of armaments, which future ages, I venture to think, will indicate as the blackest reproach upon the civilisation, the science, and the Christianity of the twentieth century; but I agree with the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition that it is not maintainable that the great cost of the British Army and Navy is in any large measure due to our association with the self-governing Colonies. No doubt their possession, and the high place of the British Empire among the nations of the world, impose many grave and serious responsibilities upon the Crown, and those who conduct the Government under the Crown; but it is not easy to tell to what extent our military preparations could be reduced or relaxed, either by sea or by land, if the self-governing Colonies, and all the responsibilities attaching to them, were altogether removed from our sphere. It is not possible to analyse, or to allocate with any precision, to what particular needs of the Empire particular charges in our defensive arrangements are due; and I agree with the right hon. Gentleman that it seems certain that the main cost, for instance, of the British Army arises not out of anything connected with the self-governing Colonies, but out of the needs of the United Kingdom, and, more particularly, out of the needs of the great dependency of India. And I agree that, whether we had an Empire or not, we should still be forced to secure the effective command of the sea, in order to protect our trade and our food supply, and to secure our own domestic peace in these islands. On the other hand, it is unquestionable that if the self-governing Colonies were, by some melancholy and improbable drift of events, to be removed from the shelter of the Mother Country and from the protection of its great instruments of war, they would have to embark on naval and military expenditure—certainly on naval, and, I think, also on military expenditure—far in excess of any provision which they are now required to make, or seem likely to be called upon to make in the future. And while I join with the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition in deprecating anything in the nature of a hard commercial reckoning with the self-governing Colonies of the British Empire, I think there is no doubt that it is their duty to contribute, as opportunities may occur, to the common resources of what, I think, Lord Rosebery finely called our "defensive league." I think the Colonies recognise the propriety of coming to the assistance of the Mother Country and contributing to the general defence of the Empire. The contributions which they have made are no doubt, as the hon. Gentleman has pointed out, not very large, but they imply very valuable principles, and they are increasing. The contribution of Australia was increased at the last Conference from £104,000 to £200,000 a year. Those of the Cape and Natal increased from £30,000 and £12,000 a year respectively to £50,000 and £35,000. And then, in addition, there are the Colonial preferences which Canada and other States have given to us, all of which, although we have differences of opinion as to their value, we, nevertheless, esteem because they are not thrown out as a sprat to catch a whale, but are given as a recognition of the benefits derived from participation in the British Empire and as the expression of sincere and growing amity. This recognition by the Colonies of the common interest which all parts of the Empire have in Imperial defence is also shown by the importance that Colonial Prime Ministers attach to the subject. I think it is the third subject on the list for discussion at the approaching Conference. I do not intend to say anything which would appear to be anticipating the very important discussions which we shall have at the Conference on the different military and naval subjects which are to be submitted—I do not think it would be proper for me to do so—but I can tell the House shortly some of the subjects which will be upon the agenda. We shall be able to consider the constitution of the Committee of Imperial Defence and the question of the possibility of colonial representation upon it; we shall be able to consider the Australian naval agreement, and the very complicated questions of naval policy involved in it and arising out of it. We shall further consider the strategic principles governing Imperial and military defence, the practicability of the Colonies' organising their forces for war on principles laid down in this country, the expansion of colonial reserves of war stores for use on mobilisation, which should be of a pattern uniform with those authorised in the United Kingdom. And, if time allows, we may, I hope, further discuss the question of the interchange of units between the United Kingdom and the Colonies, questions of the pay and conditions of service of colonial contingents which the Colonies may hereafter think proper to offer in time of need, and the question of the interchange of officers between the United Kingdom, the Colonies, and India, and other matters also of great and of practical and immediate importance.

There is another branch of this subject of colonial contributions to which my right hon. friend also referred. I mean the provision the Colonies are making for the defence of their own soil. In this branch there has been a considerable advance. It has been the policy of this country for the last forty years to entrust to the self governing colonies the duty of protecting their own soil from outside attack; and I venture to submit to the House that the tendency of modern methods of warfare and the improvement of modern weapons seem to render the self-governing colonies increasingly capable of making good their own land against any assailant. The great multiplication of defensive power which modern weapons of precision are undoubtedly producing, and the consequent need for a very high individual standard of initiative and personal quality in the private soldiers who take part in modern battles, as opposed to the rigid qualities of discipline which were exacted from the drilled troops of standing armies in the past, seem to teach every day with greater force the lesson of the immense power of volunteer citizen forces when arrayed in defence of the land in which they live. If that be true, Canada and Australia, and of course South Africa, seem to possess in an especial degree the very kind of military *personnel* which will be most efficient and formidable in the future developments of warfare. Just as we are undertaking in our own country the reorganisation and improvement of the citizen volunteer forces upon which we must so largely rely, so the self-governing colonies have, in the last few years, made large and substantial increases in the sums of money which they devote to the purposes of their own defence. Whereas in 1902 Canada contributed to the purposes of defence, Imperial as well as domestic, at the rate of 2s. per head of the population, or a gross sum of £582,000, in 1905–6 she expended at the rate of 4s. per head, or an aggregate sum of £1,374,808.

Australia spent in 1902, 3s. per head, or £809,000, and in 1905–6 5s. per head, or £976,836. Cape Colony, which in 1904 spent 2s. 6d. per head, is now spending 4s. 9d.; and Natal, which spent 2s. 6d. per head in 1902, is now spending as much as 7s. Of course, in the meanwhile there has been a slight increase in the military expenditure per head of the United Kingdom, which I understand is now 30s. I am not at all trying to deny that there is a great disproportion; I am only showing that that disproportion has to some extent been reduced. I do not think that we who uphold the doctrine of peace and retrenchment ought to feel disquieted at the increase of expenditure by those self-governing colonies upon their own military forces, because this voluntary citizen soldier, who, I believe, can be made the most powerful defender of his own country, is also the most cumbersome and least adapted agent for aggressive designs on the lands and territories of other people.

I venture to say in conclusion that we do not expect the great competition in military armaments which marks and darkens the modern era to last for ever. We trust the days may come when the tide will turn. I am ready to admit that those days are not reached yet. But, perhaps, by the strict observance of international law, and earnest persistence in the paths of peaceable arbitration and negotiation, we may do something to lighten the burden which presses upon all alike. We as a Government do not wish to cast the British Empire permanently into a rigid military mould. Such a character is altogether foreign to its genius and its constitution. While we welcome every step which the Colonies are prompted to take by their own good feeling, their sense of justice, and the prudential considerations which actuate them, to make an addition to the common stock of our defensive resources, we do not mean to urge them to join in that fierce competition, that rivalry of arms, in which so many of the polite peoples of the earth are so ready to engage. We make no demand on the Colonies. Whatever they give to us they give voluntarily, and we will accept it gladly, and do our best to derive the utmost possible advantage from it by every device which the state and organisation of our military science enable us to supply. We do not anticipate that the disproportion to which the hon. Member for Preston has drawn attention will soon be redressed. We do not expect that it will be redressed in our own time. Meanwhile, it is, of course, clear that the supreme control of foreign relations must necessarily and inevitably devolve upon that partner in our widespread league upon whom would fall, in the event of any struggle, the main burden and the peril of war. For the rest we are content to await the broadening harvest of future years; to go on with what has been the traditional policy of both great Parties in the State over long periods of time, cherishing all that will bind together the various parts of this great Empire, trying to smooth away, or keep out, all questions, however benevolently raised, that would tend to disrupting issues; and we look forward for the relief of the military burdens under which we suffer, not only to the growth of unity and comradeship within the wide circle of the British Empire, but also to the sure and patient consolidation of international confidence and good will.

*MR. RUSSELL REA (Gloucester) said he was glad to hear from the speech of the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies that he was not animated by the same spirit as his predecessors at the last Conference, but by one which was in harmony with the statesmanlike, and he believed, historic speech which they had heard from the Leader of the Opposition. His hon. friend the Member for Preston desired that there should be a frank explanation to the Colonies of our position, and that there should be no "glossing over" of the condition of things. There was no glossing over at the last Conference, but plenty of frank explanation, and, in his opinion, the presentation of this question in the last Conference was an example not to be followed, but to be avoided. In speaking on the general question of Imperial Defence at the last Conference, of the meagre contributions of the Colonies in cash to the defence of the Empire, the right hon. Gentleman the late Colonial Secretary, the Member for West Birmingham, said it was—

> "A state of things which cannot be permanent."

He told the Colonial Premiers that—

> "No one will believe that the United Kingdom can, for all time, make this inordinate sacrifice,"

and he asked that the Colonies should bear some proportionate share of the burden of Empire. It was pointed out to them by the First Lord of the Admiralty that while we at home paid 14s. 1¾d. per head for our Army, and 15s. 1d. per head for our Navy, the Colonists paid only 2s. 5d. for their military defence, including the cost of their local forces, and only 4d. per head towards "our common Navy." It was pointed out that while we paid more than £5 per head of our population for the South African war (a Colonial war) they did not pay 5s. per head. It was carefully proved to them that, excluding trade between the United Kingdom and the Colonies, in which we might be supposed to have a common and equal interest, amounting to £211,000,000 sterling, their oversea trade with foreign countries and among themselves, a trade which our Navy existed to protect as much as it did our own, amounted to £327,000,000, or nearly half as much as the foreign trade of the United Kingdom, which amounted then to £666,000,000. To all this, and much more of a similar nature, not only were the Colonial Premiers compelled to listen, but into their hands were placed many tables and papers to prove it all—papers since published and distributed throughout the Empire and the world. What had been the response of the Colonies to this appeal, so powerfully and persistently, and, apparently, so unanimously made to them by this country? It had been just as firm and almost as unanimous a refusal to comply with it. And this refusal by the Colonies was deliberate. Unlike ourselves, they had had our side of the question presented to them as well as their own, not only by us, but by a Party among themselves, a small and diminishing old Colonial Party. They thoroughly understood the position and admitted the force of the case presented to the House that evening. They understood it perfectly well, and they met it with a blank refusal. Canada would not give a penny as a direct contribution to the cost of the Imperial Navy, and although the persuasive tongue of the late Colonial Secretary did draw a promise of a few paltry thousands out of the Premiers of the Australian Commonwealth and New Zealand, that minute concession was accompanied by conditions more onerous to us than the cash was worth. Yet this small concession seemed to have cost Sir Edmund Barton and his Ministry dear. The next year, in July, 1903, he had to introduce a Bill into the Commonwealth Parliament to give effect to his promises in London the year before, and this Bill he passed with very great difficulty, and might not have passed at all if he had not had the support—a very half-hearted support—of Mr. Reid, the then Leader of the Opposition. It passed the House of Representatives by a majority of only fourteen, and the Senate by a majority of seven. The Government of Sir Edmund Barton passed its Bill, but it never recovered from this Pyrrhic victory. How were we to interpret this strong and general opinion of the Colonies in opposition to the views of his hon. friend? It was not due to disloyalty to the Empire, it was not due to ingratitude, or to meanness. It was due to a fundamental difference of view, both of their duty in this matter, and, still more, as to the right method of carrying it out. They had their reasons for their action and their non-action, and, in his opinion, their reasons were valid and sufficient. First, they could not afford to do it, for although it might be true that individually the Colonials were better off, on the average, than we were at home, yet they had not the accumulated and concentrated capital and the stability of occupations, or the permanence of settlement, that form the basis of our income tax and our death and stamp duties. They could only attempt to raise any considerable additional taxation by doubling their import duties, chiefly on the goods we sent them, a method which would not commend itself to us, and would be ruinous to them. If we were to divide our present naval and military expenditure between Great Britain and the self-governing Colonies in proportion to population, we should have to demand from Canada £7,000,000 per annum, from the Australian Commonwealth nearly £5,000,000, from New Zealand nearly £1,000,000, and so on. All who were acquainted with the taxable resources of the Colonies, and their present financial position and credit, would admit that such a taxation would be utterly beyond their power to sustain, and to propose any considerable fraction of it was outside the range of practical politics. But the Colonies had a second, and even a better, reason for their refusal. They looked across the ocean and saw the States of Europe, and England among them, fast bound in the toils of what they regarded as a most gigantic, oppressive, and wicked military slavery, and they had resolved, and openly declared, that they would never consent to be drawn into the "vortex of the European military system." Who would blame them? Certainly not he, for one. He held that they were right to refuse, and very confidently he hoped they would continue to refuse, adequate contributions to the naval and military services while they continued to exist on anything like their present scale. But their third reason was the strongest. It was elevated into a point of principle, both by Canada and Australia. It was due to the growing feeling of nationality in our greater Colonies. They were determined that money voted by them should be controlled by them and spent by them. It was impossible to misunderstand either the action or the words of the Canadians. Canada had followed up its refusal to contribute a penny as a direct contribution to the Navy by taking upon itself the whole burden, and also the whole control, of the establishments of Halifax and Esquimalt, rather than contribute a smaller sum as a direct contribution. All Canadian statesmen were at one in explaining the significance of their action. Sir Wilfred Laurier's constant theme was "Canada a nation." From a naval or military point of view he did not criticise the action of the Colonies. He was not capable of doing so. Their attitude was one deliberately taken, and both generally and firmly held, and it was a phenomenon which we must recognise, and to which we must, whether we liked it or not, learn to accommodate ourselves. In the next Colonial Conference we should not escape this question of Imperial Defence, and we should find Colonial opinion strongly consolidated and crystallised in the manner he had described. He put it to the House whether the better part would not be to cease to worry our Colonies for contributions in cash which they could not and would not, and, in his opinion, ought not, to pay. We should get far more out of them by accepting their own method of developing their defences in their own way, at their own expense, in co-operation with, though not by entire absorption into, our home services. In relation to this question, it was unjust to overlook the indirect contribution made to this country in the form of a tariff preference. Canada and New Zealand had freely given us a preferential position in their tariffs. This country had decided, and, he believed, finally decided, that a preferential tariff could not be met by a reciprocal tariff preference for the Colonies. That was too much to ask. But he thought it would be a shock to all the people in this country were these preferences, this sign of sympathy, and a sense of our essential unity, to be withdrawn. The continuance of these preferences depended, in a great degree, upon the spirit in which we accepted them. Why should we not, on both sides, frankly agree to give and accept them as a contribution to the Imperial Navy? Free traders might object that Canada had profited as much as we had done by her reduced tariff in the form of the increase of our mutual trade; that they had given what, in fact, cost them nothing. This might be true, but they must remember that Canada was not a free-trade country. The Canadians believed it had, and did, cost them something; that it was a contribution by sacrifice to the Motherland. Sir Wilfred Laurier said—

> "We give England this preference, and we ask nothing in return. Why do we give it? Out of gratitude, pure gratitude."

He uttered these words before the rise of the fiscal controversy, but since that date, in spite of all temptations to regard this preference as a bid for a return in kind, colonial statesmen had on the whole maintained this generous attitude. And in relation to this indirect contribution by the Colonies, he considered that the conduct of the representatives of this country at the last Conference afforded an example to be avoided rather than imitated. They could now see that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was, at that time, preparing the way for his later proposals. Not in the spirit of gratitude, the spirit of one who received an unclaimed benefit, but in the spirit of one already "bargaining," he told the Canadian Premier that—

> "The substantial results of the preference have been altogether disappointing to us, and I think they must have been equally disappointing to its promoters."

He presented to the Conference elaborately drawn-up statements and tables to prove his case. To these representations Canada replied by a long and carefully drawn reply, which ended with these words—

> "It is respectfully submitted that the advantage given by Canada to the British manufacturer is proved beyond all question. If he has not fully availed himself of it, that is not the fault of the Canadian Government or of the Canadian fiscal policy."

He maintained, that this was a spirit not to imitate but to avoid in the next Conference. It was as impolitic as it was unjust to undervalue the contributions the Colonies had made, and might make, in other forms than that of cash. It was doubtless at present an inadequate contribution, but it was something, and would grow with the growth of the Colonies in population and prosperity. Both parties to the fiscal controversy had, for different reasons connected with it, united to minimise the beneficial results of the Canadian preference to British Trade. Both sides had united to point out that since the date of the preference the imports into Canada from the United States had increased in greater proportion and in greater amount than those from the Mother Country. But this was an unfair comparison. The only useful comparison was to consider separately the imports of those articles in which we competed with the United States in the Canadian market. He had shown elsewhere that, taking a large group of these trades, in seven years our exports had increased 131 per cent., while those from the United States had increased only 52 per cent; in actual value our imports had increased 2½ millions, and those of the United States of these classes of goods, only by £300,000. In some trades our shipments had increased threefold, in others they had more than quadrupled, while those from European nations had been stationary. It was impossible to deny that the privileged position of British goods in the Canadian market had been of great value to us, and if it was continued it would prove of even greater value. We were asking the Colonies for cash which they would not and could not, and he believed, ought not to give. They gave what they could give, and we had received it with scant gratitude. Why should we not frankly accept the position from which after all we could not escape? Why should we not consent to receive their contributions in the form most convenient to them, and leave them to develop their defences in the only way in which they would consent to develop them at all—in co-operation and co-ordination with our own services, but not by direct contributions to them? He was prepared to admit that on both these great subjects of debate between the Mother Country and the Colonies the policy he advocated implied a tie less close than was advocated by many, perhaps by most, of those who had spoken and written on the subject of our future Imperial organisation. The tie might be less close, but not less strong. It might be less close but far stronger on that account. Two ships might sail together attached by a hempen rope, they could not sail together attached by a bar of steel—the bar of steel would snap. He looked forward to a league of free nations under one Crown, rather than to a federation with a federal constitution—to a union which was rather diplomatic than organic. There were two great tendencies in this modern world—the most striking tendencies of the age. The aggregation of peoples into great "world powers" on the one hand, and the revival of national sentiment in old nations, and the creation of new national sentiment in new nations on the other. It was the business of the statesman to reconcile these two apparently irreconcilable tendencies. In the old world an empire was always built upon the ruins of crushed nationalities. The British Empire had begun to show the world, not without making grievous errors now and then, how an empire might be built out of living nations. It was this above all at which we must aim in dealing with our Colonies.

Mr. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said that this was a subject upon which he had taken a very considerable amount of interest and upon which he had spoken in this House on other occasions. Therefore he desired to say a few words. More than once he had pointed out that as the matter stood at the present time it was an unjust and illogical thing that the poor population of Ireland should be called upon to pay a considerable proportion towards the maintenance of the Army and Navy of the Empire, while the numerically larger parts of the Empire, Australia and New Zealand, and infinitely more wealthy parts of the Empire, were allowed to escape altogether. That was in favour of an entire re-arrangement with regard to Ireland's contribution to Imperial defence. He had often urged this question from that point of view, but at the same time he had never found fault with the Australians for making their own arrangements, and he had never insinuated that they were really endeavouring to avoid their proper responsibilities because they did not see their way to contribute a large sum towards the maintenance of the British Fleet. In Ireland there was a good deal of dissatisfaction that any of the hard-earned money of the Irish people should be devoted to the maintenance of the British Fleet; because the people were convinced that they got in return no corresponding advantage. They did not see circulating in their country any of the money that was spent for the maintenance of the Fleet, and they did not believe, owing to their geographical position and their connection with England, they were in the slightest danger of having their shores invaded. In Australia the feeling was very much the same. The people there did not feel called upon to contribute large sums of money for the maintenance of the Fleet, because they did not see under existing circumstances what particular advantages or benefits they derived from it. But it was suggested from time to time that Japan or Germany or some other great Power might invade the shores of Australia, and that without the assistance of the British Fleet the country would be perfectly helpless. But if any such contingency did arise there was a very grave doubt in Australia as to whether under the present conditions the British Fleet would be able to afford the protection which they were asking to be paid for beforehand. It was very difficult for them to see that Australia would be in any danger except through her connection with England, and if England were protecting herself, the Australian people failed to see how she would be able to send her Fleet out for their protection. Of course, nobody supposed that any such contingency would arise, but supposing such a thing did arise, and the British Fleet was sent to the assistance of Australia, and considerable sums of money were spent, would anybody in this House imagine that the people of New Zealand and Australia were so mean and parsimonious that they would refuse to pay for any direct assistance rendered to them by the British Fleet, or the Services of this country? They would pay for services rendered, but they objected to pay towards the maintenance of a fleet which they knew would have to be maintained, and would have been in existence if Australia did not exist at all. He was exceedingly sorry that the hon. Member for Preston had adopted the tone he had on this occasion. The reason why he had taken an interest in the question was that these colonies were as much the heritage of the Irish as of the British people, they were no more British than Irish Colonies, and it certainly was a source of irritation to him, and he got very heated, when he heard them constantly referred to as British Colonies. Both in New Zealand and Australia it would be found that the Irish element was exceedingly strong, and everything that affected them gave the Irish representatives in this House just as great a right to speak in their favour as any British Member. His remarks would apply equally to Canada and the United States of America, but he mentioned the two colonies, Australia and New Zealand, because the tone of the speech of the Member for Preston would have irritated any member of those Colonies who might be sitting in the Strangers' Gallery. The hon. Member seemed in his speech to start with the assumption that the one ideal in the life of the Australian people was to avoid the payment of something they ought to pay, and so obtain a service for which they were prepared to make no return, and that there was in Australia a strong desire to injure and humiliate, if not to swindle, the people of this country. In Australia there was one case where certain tradesmen who had emigrated were refused permission to land, it being alleged that they had engaged in an unfair contract, which would interfere with the wages of men in Australia. Those men were detained for a few days, and when the true facts were known, they were allowed to go to their work. That was the only case where any white immigrant had been detained for even twenty-four hours before being allowed to land, and the hon. Member for Preston had quoted that one case as if it was one instance out of many, and therefore had not given a very fair impression of the attitude of these Colonies. The fact was that they were only too glad to welcome suitable immigrants, and they were not to be blamed for trying to prevent their shores being invaded by scores and hundreds of wasters and unsuitable people. Given fair conditions, there was no country in the world which was so glad to give a welcome to those who came to settle as Australia. They had made most generous offers, and largely paid the passage of desirable emigrants who desired to make that country their home. Yet the hon. Member for Preston conveyed the false impression that these men on the other side of the world, whose money we were asking for, were of so extraordinary a disposition that they would not allow a desirable immigrant in their country. The hon. Member also found fault with Australia because she taxed imports from this country. What did the hon. Gentleman want? Some people imagined that the people of New Zealand and Australia must be exactly the same as the people of this country. But it should be rememberd that the people of these colonies to-day were of the second and third generation who, unlike the old-time Colonists, had never seen England; who had lived their whole lives in Australia and had never seen any other country but Australia, and who had no knowledge whatever of this country except what they had read in books, or what they may have heard from their grandparents. In the very nature of things such men must be not Englishmen but Australians and New Zealanders, and their own country the only country for them. They were bound by every natural law to do their best in the interests of their own country. The hon. Member for Preston had spoken as if he thought they ought to act as though England was the first and only place in the world. Such a tone was more likely to break up than keep an Empire together. The hon. Member had found great fault with the fact that Australia so far as possible made arrangements to have Australian officers with the Australian land forces, but surely they must not be blamed for that. The theory of the hon. Member for Preston certainly, so far as principle went, was perfectly right, but the tone he had adopted was more likely to do injury and give offence than anything else. The hon. Member for Gloucester had made a very wise observation when he said that one of the reasons why Australia looked askance at all proposals for a contribution to the naval and military expenditure of the Empire was because generally they were against the spirit of militarism. They did believe in having a strong military force at home, and that every man in the country should be able to defend his own hearth and home, but great standing armies were things which everybody knew were extremely repugnant to the New Zealander, the Australian, and the free peoples of the new world. The politicians who followed closely what was done in this country saw that while many millions were spent on ships and an enormous Army, at the same time there were hundreds of thousands of men and women in a state of semi-starvation in our streets. They saw that here there was some system of Poor Law, which they had not, under which men, women and children were kept from starving in a sort of prison; they saw that in this country there were no old age pensions which they had; that there were these things side by side with the enormous expenditure on the Army and Navy, and they came to the conclusion there would be more of these things. Therefore when we asked them for money to build ships and maintain enormous armaments they said "No. It is against the spirit of our democracy. We will protect ourselves, and if you come and help us we will pay you for your services, but we will not enter into any arrangement to maintain your military system, because we think it is wrong and that you ought to reduce your expenditure." He would further tell the House that these people on the other side of the world were very sensitive, that they would not stand anything in the shape of superiority, or bullying, or lecturing. They were willing to treat and be treated fairly, but they would brook no superiority of tone from anyone.

*MR. BOULTON (Huntingdonshire, Ramsey) pointed out that the figures quoted by the hon. Member for Preston must have been made from some Return other than that from which the figures quoted by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies were taken. The hon. Member for Preston had put the amount contributed by the Colonies towards Imperial defence at £887,000, but those figures were hopelessly out of date. The figures given by the Under-Secretary showed that there had been a large increase upon that. Canada in the year 1895 expended on her own defence £300,000; in 1905 and 1906 the amount of money expended by Canada was £1,300,000, which worked out at something like a tax of 4s. a head on the population. Not only had Canada very largely increased her contribution for Imperial defence, but she had done something towards lessening the expenditure of this country upon armaments, by taking over the cost of the defence of Halifax and Esquimalt, which relieved this country of military expenditure amounting to £180,000 per annum. With regard to the suggestion that Canada should contribute a considerably larger sum towards Imperial defence than she did at present, he would point out that the Canadian people were determined that the expenditure of whatever money was voted out of the taxes of their country should be controlled by them. If a large sum were handed over to the Imperial Government for Imperial purposes by the Government of Canada the people of that country would no longer have any control over that money, and that would give great dissatisfaction to the people. The same thing he was sure would follow in Australia. The feeling that had grown up in the Colonies was that money expended for Imperial defence should be expended under their own control. Canada and Australia were young countries, and it was only since 1867 that this doctrine of the Colonies sharing in Imperial defence had come into Imperial politics. Up to 1867 the idea obtained that we should maintain large bodies of troops in the Colonies in order to protect them and keep them as part of the Empire. That doctrine was completely exploded by that great statesman Mr. Gladstone when he withdrew the Imperial troops from the greater Colonies. The Colonies had year by year since then increased their expenditure for Imperial defence. It must be remembered also when speaking of contributions for Imperial defence that there were other things besides expenditure for soldiers and fortifications. Canada had given a preference to this country in the shape of a reduced tariff, given without any expectation of any tariff preference in Great Britain, but solely as a matter of gratitude to the mother land. Beyond that, Canada had done other things which contributed to Imperial defence. A very large sum of money had been expended by her on a trans-continental railway. The building of the Canadian-Pacific Railway gave this country an alternative route to India, which in his opinion might be regarded as some contribution towards Imperial defence. There were two other trans-continental railways being projected by Canada, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Canadian Northern Pacific, while the contribution she was making to the All-British Cable connecting Canada with Australia and New Zealand would show that the contribution made by her directly and indirectly towards Imperial defence was very great. He was thoroughly in accord with everything that had been said with regard to the voluntary movement, which he considered was the strength of the Empire. Lord Lytton once said at a great banquet to the Australian Colony in London—

> "Gentlemen of Australia, you will one day have great cities where you now have small villages and you may have your harbours filled with ships. It may be in that day England the mother of free nations will be attacked by the despotic Powers of Europe. I believe if that day comes your ships will come across the broad ocean thick and fast, your sentiments being that while Australia lasts England shall not perish."

The feeling that the Colonies should not be pressed in this matter was the right one, and it was leading to the Colonies year by year taking a greater part in the defences of the Empire. He thought that was the spirit in which the Empire should be defended.

*MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland) protested against the language of the hon. Member for Clare in imputing to the hon. Member for Preston the intention of displaying superiority and patronage of Australia and New Zealand in the treatment of this question. He denied the hon. Member's right to represent Australia or New Zealand in the matter; on the contrary, he asserted, as a colonist of many years standing, that the hon. Member for Preston had done good service in bringing the question forward, because nothing would so much tend to create suspicion and ill-feeling on the part of the Colonies as the absence of free discussion. By freely threshing out the question the Colonies and the Mother Country would remain, if possible, even better friends than they were at this moment. With regard to the remarks of the leader of the Opposition, he invited the right hon. Gentleman to compare them with a speech which he delieved to a deputation last year, and he would be astonished at the absolutely inconsistent tone of the two speeches. It would be a great thing if this whole question could be fairly and freely discussed with the Colonial representatives, and it was worse than ludicrous for the Leader of the Opposition to assert, with all the authority attaching to his position, that in the event of Australia, Canada, and South Africa becoming separate independent States we could not reduce our fleet by a ship or our naval expenditure by a shilling. Australians knew better, and the people of this country would think of small, independent countries like Denmark, where there were practically no poor, where they had old-age pensions and land, and enjoyed great comfort, and were not crushed down by a great expenditure on armaments.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) expressed the opinion that at no time could this question have been raised so opportunely as at the present, coming as they were to the opening of the Colonial Conference. The speech of the hon. Gentleman the Under-Secretary for the Colonies was one which the Colonies and the whole Empire would accept with great satisfaction; its only blemish was that the hon. Member had permitted himself to drag in the fiscal question, which might well have been left to the coming week, when an Amendment raising it would be moved. He frankly confessed he was much surprised to see how strong was the spirit on the Government side of the House that the Colonies should not be pressed on this matter, because during the last Parliament speeches were made in the other direction which were, however, well backed by the soundest knowledge. There was no constitutional right on the part of this country to demand any return for what had been done for the Colonies. That right was given away when we gave responsible government to them. But there was, in his opinion, a moral obligation on the part of the Colonies in this matter. He did not think the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition would be encouraging to those who had been pressing for local contributions, even in those places where their views upon this subject had been growing in intensity. The strides that had been made in Australia in this regard were enormous. They recognised their unusual position and the difficulties in which they were placed when their interests conflicted with those of other nations, and they were prepared, and had shown their willingness, to contribute to Imperial defence. Many times to-day it had been said that the Colonies had not voted money. But they had done so and would continue to do so. Australia had nearly doubled her contribution of a few years ago, and it was unworthy on the part of the hon. Member for Preston to quibble in the way he had. Then there was the question of Canada; there were two races in Canada and the Canadian people were a continental people. Ten years ago the average Canadian could not understand that the Navy could be any use to Canada except for coastal defence. It was only beginning to dawn upon an unsophisticated people that the Navy was for the protection of commerce as well as for strategical purposes. But during the last six years the increase of knowledge regarding the relation of our Navy to commerce in Canada has been very great indeed; Canada had opened markets in China and Japan. If by any chance she was faced with a closed door in Japan or China, or in Germany or Russia, standing alone she would be incapable of claiming an open market. She could not do so unless she had the English Navy where it was, with the power to enforce Canada's arguments simply because it was the British Navy. He was certain that when Canada recognised her indebtedness to England in regard to the Navy, which she was bound to do, these donations would be made by Canada as well as by other dominions of the Crown. He had changed his mind upon this subject a great many times in the last twenty years owing to the development of Colonial opinion, and he now believed that if this question was only approached by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies with resolution and the open mind and the spirit which had actuated him this evening a solution of the difficulty would be found and a settlement arrived at.

MR. HAROLD COX begged leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question again proposed.

Motion made and Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned,"—(*Earl Percy,*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed upon Monday next.

Adjourned at one minute before Five o'clock till Monday next.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 18th February, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Galwey's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Charles Edward Galwey, a captain in the Royal Irish Regiment, with Annie Louise Galwey, his now wife, and to enable him to marry again; and for other purposes—Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in and of the decree of divorce of the King's Bench, Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland delivered (on oath); Bill read 1ª; and to be read 2ª on Monday, 4th March next. The usual Orders made.

Fitz Gerald's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Lida Eleanor Purcell Fitz Gerald with Gerald Purcell Fitz Gerald her present husband, and to enable her to marry again; and for other purposes. Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in and of the decree of divorce of the King's Bench, Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland delivered (on oath); Bill read 1ª; and to be read 2ª on Monday, 4th March next. The usual Orders made.

Baines' Name.—Petition of Raymond Hill Baines, of 54, Cromwell Road, Hove, in the county of Sussex, praying for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise Raymond Hill Baines to assume and bear the Christian names of Henry Rodd in lieu of the Christian names of Raymond Hill; together with a copy of the proposed Bill annexed thereto; read and referred to the Examiners.

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [H.L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill [H.L.]; City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill [H.L.]; Coventry Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Devonport Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Harrison's Patent Bill [H.L.]; Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Humber Conservancy Bill [H.L.]; Kendal Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.]; King Edward's Hospital Fund for London Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice Bill [H.L.]; Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; St. Neot's Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]; Selsey Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Sheffield Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.]; Southend-on-Sea Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Sutton Coldfield Rectory Bill [H.L.]; Tees Conservancy Bill [H.L.]; Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill [H.L.]; Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.]; United Methodist Church Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]; York and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; York (Micklegate Strays) Bill [H.L.].—Presented, and read 1ª.

Borax Consolidated Bill [H.L.]; Cavehill and Whitewell Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Colne Valley Water Bill [H.L.]; Electric Supply Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) Bill [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill [H.L.]; Medway Lower Navigation Bill [H.L.]; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway Bill [H.L.]; Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment Bill [H.L.]; National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill [H.L.]; Newquay and District Water Bill [H.L.]; North British Railway Bill [H.L.]; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Oxford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Portishead District Water Bill [H.L.]; Royal Insurance Company Bill [H.L.]; South Lincolnshire Water Bill [H.L.]; Southend Water Bill [H.L.]; Staveley Coal and Iron Company Bill [H.L.]; West Riding Tramways Bill [H.L.]; West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.]; Weston-super Mare Grand Pier Bill [H.L.]; Wisbech Water Bill H.L.].—Presented; read 1ª; and referred to the Examiners.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ROLL OF THE LORDS.

The LORD SPEAKER acquainted the House that the Clerk of the Parliaments had prepared and laid it on the Table. The same was ordered to be printed. (No. 1.)

ROYAL OBSERVATORY, GREENWICH.

Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the London County Council Generating Station at Greenwich in its relation to the Royal Observatory.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Report for the year 1906 by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh.

"OPTIONS" AND "FUTURES" IN FOOD STUFFS.

Reports from the Canadian Government and His Majesty's representatives abroad on legislative measures respecting gambling in "Option" and "Future" contracts as regards food-stuffs (in continuance of [Cd. 1756.] of 1904).

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Orders made by the Light Railways Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade :—

1. (Maidstone Corporation Light Railways (Extensions) Order, 1907.) Authorising the construction of light railways in the borough of Maidstone and in the rural district of Maidstone, and on the boundary of the rural district of Hollingbourne, in the county of Kent.

2. (County of Middlesex Light Railways (Extension and Lands) Order, 1907.) Authorising the construction of a light railway in the parish of Wembley, in the county of Middlesex (being an extension of the light railways authorised by the county of Middlesex Light Railways Order, 1903) and the taking of lands for widening roads on which the said light railways will be laid in the parishes of Hendon, of Southgate, and of Edmonton, in the said county.

3. (Warrington and Northwich Light Railways (Extension of Time) Order, 1907.) Amending the Warrington and Northwich Light Railways Order, 1903.

4. (Leek, Caldon, Low, and Hartington Light Railways (Borrowing and Further Powers Amendment) Order, 1906.) Amending the Leek, Caldon, Low, and Hartington Light Railways Order, 1898.

TRADE REPORTS: ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3744. Italy (South Italy).

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

The Parliamentary Elections Act, 1906 (No. 41).

GREENWICH HOSPITAL AND TRAVERS' FOUNDATION (CAPITAL AND INCOME ACCOUNTS, 1905–1906).

Accounts of the receipt and expenditure of the capital and of the income derived from the lands and other property held for the benefit of Greenwich Hospital, and the Foundation of Samuel Travers, Esquire, for the year ended 31st March, 1906; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon.

PUBLIC RECORDS (INLAND REVENUE DEPARTMENT).

Second Schedule containing a list and particulars of classes of documents existing or accruing in the department of the Inland Revenue which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office.

POST OFFICE.

1. (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1906.)

No. 942. (Money Orders.) The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 1) Regulations, 1906, dated 21st December, 1906.

No. 943. (Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post, Sweden.) The Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 1) Warrant, 1906, dated 20th December, 1906.

2. (Statutory Rules and Orders, 1907.)

No. 31. (Inland Post.) The Inland Post Amendment (No. 9) Warrant, 1907, dated 21st January, 1907.

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS, 1853–1891 (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Licence granted by His Majesty to Jack Dawson under the provisions of the Penal Servitude Acts, 1853–1891, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A. of the Penal Servitude Act, 1864.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF BETHNAL GREEN).

Order made by the council of the metropolitan borough of Bethnal Green, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the hours of closing for certain classes of shops within the borough.

SUPERANNUATION.

Treasury minutes, dated 9th February, 1907, granting retired allowances under Section 2 of the Superannuation Act, 1887, to—

1. Charles Walter Maies Anderson, late assistant superintendent, Central Telegraph Office, London.

2. Thomas Davidson Brown, late first class engineer, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office.

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.

Fifteenth Annual Report of the proceedings of the Inspection Committee of Trustee Savings Banks, for the year ended 20th November, 1906; with Appendices.

NATIONAL DEBT (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).

Account of the gross amount of all moneys received and paid by the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt on account of "the Fund for Military Savings Banks" from the 19th September, 1845, to the 5th January, 1907.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE.

The LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of Ripon): My Lords, I have endeavoured to ascertain what would be likely to be agreeable to the large majority of your Lordships in reference to our sittings, and, as far as I have been able to obtain information, it appears to me that your Lordships favour the course which was followed during the Autumn Sittings, and prefer to meet on Wednesdays and not on Fridays. In these circumstances I beg to move the Motion which stands in my name on the Paper.

Moved, "That for the remainder of the session the sittings of this House shall be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, unless otherwise ordered."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

***The Marquess of LANSDOWNE**: My Lords, this matter is clearly one which should be decided with a view to the general convenience of the House. We have made inquiries on this side, and the impression which we have derived corresponds with that which has been formed by the noble Marquess opposite.

On Question, Motion agreed to.

HOME DEFENCE.

Lord LOVAT: My Lords, I beg to ask the First Lord of the Admiralty (1) for the nominal roll of first-class battleships fully manned and in active commission in Home waters on the 13th February, 1907; (2) to state how many battleships had nucleus crews on board at that date; how many had reduced nucleus crews on board at that date; and (3) what number of officers and men constitute a reduced nucleus crew, and how many men were there on board the "Ramillies," etc., on 13th February, 1907.

The FIRST LORD of the ADMIRALTY (Lord Tweedmouth): My Lords, my noble friend puts to me three questions which I hope to be able to answer with the greatest frankness. The reply to the first question is, there is one first-class battleship, the "Dominion," which is now in dockyard hands. It will take two or three months to repair. Of our other ships in full commission about sixty are at this moment engaged in the manœuvres at Lagos, and therefore not more than three days' sail from home waters. The answer to the second question is that there are twelve ships with nucleus crews on board—the "Albion," the "Magnificent," the "Victorious," the "Glory," the "Bulwark," the "Barfleur," the "Centurion," the "Majestic," the "Empress of India," the "Nile," the "Ocean," and the "Revenge." There are eight with reduced nucleus crews—the "Ramillies," the "Repulse," the "Hood," the "Resolution," the "Royal Oak," the "Royal Sovereign," the "Trafalgar," and the "Renown."

I think, my Lords, it would be well to recall what these ships did when the mobilisation took place on June 14th last. This was the performance of the ships at the Nore. The order to mobilise was received by the commander-in-chief at 2.46 a.m. It was made "general" at 3 a.m. The first ship ready was the "Aboukir" at 5.15 a.m., and the last the "Ramillies" at 8.10 a.m., all with full crews and ready to go to sea. At Portsmouth the order was received by the commander-in-chief at 2.55, and the ships were completed and had sailed for their ports of assembly by 9.30 a.m., except the "Royal Arthur" at 10.29, and the "Barfleur," delayed by the tide till 1.20 p.m. At Devonport the order was received at 3.12 a.m., and the last ship was ready to sail for sea at 9.30 a.m. These ships responded to the test put upon them. There was no necessity for a proclamation, to call out reserves, or anything of that sort. They went to sea with full crews with the extreme rapidity I have indicated. I know there has been a good deal of discussion about the advantage or disadvantage of nucleus crews; but the enormous improvement that has taken place in the Fleet owing to the institution of the nucleus crews is hardly to be exaggerated. It has diminished the number of ships out of repair in the most extraordinary manner, and the Fleet is now in a condition such as it was never in before, thanks largely to the high state of efficiency maintained owing to the nucleus crews on board.

Three years ago, in the third week of January, 1904, we had sixty battleships on our list. Of these thirty-eight, or 63 per cent., were unavailable for one reason or another. On 21st January of this year out of fifty-one battleships only eight were unavailable, or only 16 per cent. of the whole number we had. Of the armoured cruisers, of which there were twenty-four on the list in January, 1904, there were eight unavailable, or 33 per cent. Now we have twenty-eight on the list; seven are unavailable, or only 25 per cent. Of unarmoured ships we have now only twenty-one unavailable out of seventy-six; in 1904 forty-four out of eighty-four were unavailable, or 52 per cent. The destroyers were this year 143 on the list; twenty-nine were unavailable, or 20 per cent.; in 1904 there were sixty-one out of 110, or about 56 per cent. Thanks to the admirable changes made by my predecessor, Lord Selborne, for I must give him credit for the initiation of the scheme, the whole of our ships are in much better order.

As to the third question, it is difficult to state with an accuracy that cannot be disputed the exact number which at any particular time constitute a nucleus crew. At present a full nucleus crew is about two-fifths of the whole crew, and a reduced nucleus crew is about one-fifth of the whole crew. On the "Royal Sovereign" class, the number of men varying from day to day and week to week, the nucleus crew is about seventy-three, but there is an intention of largely increasing the proportion of the nucleus crew. We are going to try to work it up from two-fifths to three-fifths on most ships, and so far as the Home Fleet at the Nore is concerned, we shall have in about six weeks time six battleships and six cruisers to all intents and purposes fully manned. They will have three-fifths nucleus crews, and the other two-fifths will be made up of men who will no doubt be moved from time to time from other ships, but not quicker than in eight months. That is going back to the practice carried out by the Channel Fleet before 1903. This will, I believe, secure that these ships will be always ready to go to sea and will carry on their practice and training in the waters in which they may be called upon to fight.

Lord LOVAT, who had also given notice "To call the attention of the Under-Secretary of State for War to the number of efficient fully manned

British battleships on active commission in home waters on 13th February, 1907; to ask him, in view of the naval conditions obtaining on that date, whether the possibilities of foreign military invasion of these isles must necessarily be confined to a raid of 10,000 men; and to move that facts and figures be produced and laid on the table of the House to substantiate the contention of the Under-Secretary of State for War on 10th December, 1906, that the supremacy of the fleet guaranteed the British Isles from invasion by any force greater than that of a raiding party of 10,000 men," said: My Lords, I must thank the noble Lord who has just sat down for the way in which he has answered my Questions. In his reply the First Lord naturally put the case in the best point of view from the Admiralty side, not distinguishing between ship and ship or excluding those which are used for other purposes than those of a warship. The "Ocean," which is quoted as having a nucleus crew on board, is in dock, and I presume will not go out to sea. I think the "Victorious," the "Dominion," the "Magnificent," and the "Glory" are in similar condition. With regard to the "Renown," that is no longer regarded as a man-of-war, as it has been used for other purposes. As to the remainder, I would point out that there are only four of the efficient ships named which carry 12-inch guns. Of the twenty-one ships in home waters, it would be difficult to produce more than fifteen or sixteen at the outside which would be of any value as fighting ships; and amongst those you have the "Barfleur," the "Centurion," the "Trafalgar," and the "Nile," which I do not think are now reckoned as first-class ships of war.

But that, however, is not my point. I wish to dwell rather on the question of fact than of Admiralty policy—to test whether it is not a fact that the time might come when we had not the command of the North Sea and were therefore liable to invasion. I, therefore, ask the noble Earl the Under-Secretary of State for War to reconsider the question whether the theory of the Blue Water school still holds good. I mean by the Blue Water theory the question of the possibility or non-possibility of invasion. We have had during the last few years various theories on this subject. The Norfolk Commission were absolutely unable when they sat to find out by what number invasion was possible, but it was assumed, from the number of men we were expected to get ready, that invasion was possible by a force of 100,000 men. After a certain period Mr. Balfour, in perhaps the most regrettable speech ever made in this country from the point of view of the result it has had, stated that 70,000 would be the minimum that could land with a view to successful action, and that 10,000 would be the maximum raiding force which it would be possible to send across the channel. From there we got down to a raiding party of 5,000, and, finally, to Mr. Arnold-Forster's dinghy theory. Then we had the statement by Lord Portsmouth that, even if we had not the command of the Channel, a force of 10,000 was the limit that could come across. I should very much like to have the facts and figures to substantiate that contention. We certainly are not organized on land. Our defensive forces are in course of organisation and unprepared. Moltke said—

> "Initial distribution carries in it the germ of success or failure."

I wonder if either the noble Lord at the head of the Admiralty or the noble Earl who represents the War Office could say of any part of our forces during the past week that the distribution and organisation gave prospect of success. As regards the distribution of the Fleet the question is even more serious, because the nation we have to fear is obviously Germany. Indeed from neither point of view can we regard the situation as satisfactory. The question of speed, moreover, which I understand is a great factor in naval matters, is also absolutely against us; all the oldest ships we possess are in home waters, and those which are not old ships are for the moment *hors de combat.*

In considering the possibility of raids it is important to note that on Saturday last there were thirteen liners in German ports, with a tonnage of over 110,000. These liners could be off our shores any morning with a powerful raiding force on board. In Mr. Balfour's figures three tons were calculated as necessary to carry one man; but in the Japanese War one ton and a half carried one man, and in the Turkish War the proportion of men was greater than the tonnage. I have seen it stated on authority that 80,000 Germans could be suddenly mobilised in a German port in six hours. Personally I do not think the figure would be so high as that. I think the limit would be 40,000 or 50,000 men, for it would be essential in any surprise invasion that no outside preparation should be shown, otherwise information would be sent across. For a liner raid 150,000 men could be mobilised in German ports in thirty hours, and the tonnage available would be ample at any moment to bring over whatever force was considered necessary for the invasion of these islands. We know very little in this country of the time it takes to embark men and get them off, but the Germans have practical experience and training in the rapid embarking and disembarking of troops. These are facts which ought to be kept in mind. The question of time, too, is all important. The First Lord of the Admiralty gave some interesting figures just now of the results of mobilisation orders on the 14th June, and no doubt mobilisation can begin at once when the order is expected.

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: It was not known; it was a surprise.

Lord LOVAT: Were not the Press correspondents down?

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: No.

Lord LOVAT: Was it on a Saturday?

Lord TWEEDMOUTH: I cannot say.

Lord LOVAT: With regard to the presence of Press correspondents I find I was wrong. I think the result would be very different if "a bolt from the blue" fell on a Saturday night, when men are absent on leave in large numbers. I happened to be standing outside Chatham at 1 o'clock on Saturday, and I saw over 200 blue-jackets taking their tickets till Monday. The ticket collector was a very intelligent young man, and entering into conversation with him I remarked, "There are a great many men going away to-day, aren't there?" He replied, "Not nearly so many as a week or two ago." I ascertained that on some occasions as many as 1,200 leave. If, for instance, a surprise took place on a Saturday with the German naval force stronger than ours in the North Sea, I do not see how the Admiralty could be ready before Tuesday, and it would be difficult for the ships to concentrate in face of an active enterprising enemy. As to the time necessary for the mobilisation of the Auxilliary Forces, I sent some telegrams last week to the various headquarters to ascertain what would be the average time, in case mobilisation was sounded at 10 o'clock at night, in which each unit would be able to start preparation. I find that when you wire on a Saturday night to a distant commanding officer the telegram is not received until 8 o'clock on Monday morning. This is another important matter to be borne in mind in this connection. In the circumstances I have mentioned your raiding party could have landed on the Sunday, and by the time our ships were ready for sea a large majority of the 150,000 raiders would be on our shores.

I do not apprehend that the Germans would in time of peace start "a bolt from the blue" of this nature. But we must bear in mind what history teaches, which is that hostilities usually begin before war is actually declared. In my calculations for a surprise I have not made a single allowance for the 84,000 Germans in this country, for the dropping of a bomb in Chatham Dock, or the sinking of a ship in the narrowest waters of Portsmouth Harbour. I might instance the Dogger Bank affair as showing that we cannot rely on the Navy being near enough to protect these shores from sudden attack. We may be certain that if this surprise comes upon us it will be the best organised surprise, both as to method and thoroughness, that ever was known. Therefore, I ask the noble Earl, the Under-Secretary of State for War, whether he still considers that the possibilities of foreign military invasion of these islands must necessarily be confined to a raid of 10,000 men.

Moved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty for facts and figures to substantiate the contention of the Under-Secretary of State for War on December 10th, 1906, that the supremacy of the Fleet guaranteed the British Isles from invasion by any force greater than that of a raiding party of 10,000 men."—(*Lord Lovat.*)

*EARL ROBERTS: My Lords, the noble Lord has brought forward a Resolution which is one of such vital importance to the safety of this country that I earnestly trust it will receive most careful attention, not only from both Houses of Parliament, but from every thoughtful and intelligent person in the United Kingdom. The noble Lord has stated certain facts; and it seems to me essential that these facts should be tested from the bottom. If the statements are correct—and, so far as I can judge, having gone carefully into them, they are absolutely correct—they reveal a state of affairs that is most disquieting and it would seem as if we were living in a fool's paradise, and shutting our eyes to a danger that may only be realised when it is too late to guard against it.

I know there are many people who scout the idea of invasion so long as we possess a powerful Navy. A powerful Navy we must possess—a Navy sufficiently powerful and numerically strong enough to cope, with every chance of success, against the navies of two Powers; but it would be unwise to trust to the Navy alone to defend these islands. My noble friend has clearly proved that in time of peace we cannot rely on the Navy being near enough to prevent these shores from being attacked. It is all very well for people to imagine that this is not likely to happen. But it has happened already, at the time of the Dogger Bank affair; and at this moment the greater part of the Navy is too far off to prevent attack.

Were we at war with any two Powers, the main body of our Navy, in accordance with the duties defined for it by the Carnarvon Commission in 1881, might be hundreds of miles away seeking for and destroying the fleets of the one Power while the fleets of the other Power would be at liberty to harass our commerce, to interfere with our food supplies, and, quite possibly, to land an army in this country. Anyhow, my Lords, as I have already said, it would be very unwise, either in peace or in war, to trust to the Navy alone to defend these shores. We cannot surely suppose that the intending invader would be foolish enough to give us timely warning of what he was about to do. We cannot flatter ourselves that an expeditionary force could not be landed on our territory without war having been previously declared.

Depend upon it, if this should ever occur—and that such an eventuality will happen I feel morally certain, unless we put our house in order—it will be at a moment when we are least prepared to meet the enemy; that is to say, when we are asleep as we are at present, or when nearly the whole of the Regular Army has been despatched abroad, as in 1900. For surprise is the essence of success in war, and if you will study a very valuable book called "Hostilities without Declaration of War," compiled in 1883 by Lieutenant-Colonel (now Major-General) Sir Frederick Maurice, you will find that, as a rule, hostilities have commenced before the declaration of war. Sir Frederick Maurice tells us that of the 117 wars fought by European nations, or by the United States of America, against civilised Powers, during the 171 years (from 1700 to 1870) only ten are recorded when hostilities were preceded by a declaration of war. He further states—this was in the year 1883—that—

> "In far the greater number of cases recorded the surprise which overtook the assailed country was as complete as would be the effect if to-day, or at any time during this last year and a half, a foreign army had landed on the shores of England."

If this record had been brought up to date more examples of this fact could have been given, and I think we may rest satisfied that what has happened in the past may happen in the future. Increased facilities of communication have made surprises more frequent during the last two centuries than before. As Sir Frederick Maurice says—

> "When armies moved by the slow stages by which the Roman legions advanced, the whole progress of war was cumbrous, and a solemn announcement of coming war was part of the laboured programme. But in modern times

the development of roads, railways, and other means of communication, of supplies, food, clothing, and of general wealth, the facility with which physical obstacles can now be overcome, the perfect knowledge of ground furnished by good maps, have made sudden enterprises incomparably more easy than they were in earlier times."

Assuming the possibility of a hostile force landing upon the eastern part of our country, a possibility which has greatly increased in recent years by the growth of the navies and mercantile marine of our continental neighbours and by the new light that the experience of the Russo-Japanese war has thrown upon the question of the amount of tonnage required to convey a given number of troops, it would be well to consider what amount of resistance we have to offer.

First we must remember that our arrangements for mobilisation have been hitherto dominated by the requirements of Imperial defence and have been adjusted, partly because it was thought that places like Portsmouth and Plymouth needed to be specially protected, but mainly with a view to getting troops out of the country expeditiously to reinforce any threatened point beyond the seas. The requirements of home defence have hitherto been considered of secondary importance. The possibility of an invasion has never been believed in by our rulers since the days of Wellington and Palmerston, and consequently the people have been taught that if an invasion ever occurred it would be only a mere raid which could be frustrated without difficulty. I myself doubted at one time the feasibility of any large force being landed on our shores, but modern conditions have developed so rapidly that it is impossible now to study the question without realising that, under some such circumstances as the noble Lord has supposed, a large number of troops could be safely and rapidly landed in this country.

The result, then, my Lords, of our defensive arrangements has been to locate the larger portion of our Regular troops in the south of England, while the mass of our Volunteers is to be found amongst the populous manufacturing districts further north. A landing on the centre of our eastern coast would cut our military forces in two. Panic and confusion would prevail everywhere, and the Regular troops at Aldershot and on Salisbury Plain—not more than 30,000 men in all, and very imperfectly prepared, I am sorry to say, for a sudden move, in the important matters of transport and artillery horses, and without a sufficient supply of ammunition available for either guns or men—would have to be hurried up for the defence of London; the task of checking the invaders would therefore be left to the Auxiliary Forces, who, it is generally recognised, are insufficiently trained to meet a Continental army in the field. And even if their patriotic spirit could compensate for their imperfect discipline and training, it certainly could not remedy the want of artillery and cavalry, nor the lack of the administrative services which are necessary for the maintenance of an Army in the field. It is true that after a time the number of our Regulars might be increased by the addition of Reservists, but the long delay before they could join, under the existing very inconvenient arrangements for the mobilisation of Reservists, would be still further increased by the interruption of our communications, caused by the presence of an enemy in the centre of England.

My Lords, I have not, I believe, got the character of being an alarmist, and I trust I am not yet in that state of dotage which Mr. Cobden attributed to the great Duke of Wellington when his Grace ventured to point out the necessity for suitable arrangements being made to defend Great Britain. But I confess to a feeling of absolute despair when I think of the blindness displayed by the British public which enables them to rest satisfied with our present state of unpreparedness. The responsibility for the remedy of all this lies with you, my Lords, on both sides of this House, and with the leaders on both sides of the other House. So long as the warnings of men who know what war is and who wish to save their country from its horrors are treated with something very like contempt; so long as our rulers refuse to believe that it is possible for a Power with a fleet rapidly approaching our own in strength, and with an army of at least 5,000,000 of thoroughly trained men at its disposal to invade this country, so long will the people continue in their ignorance of what may overtake them and in their complaisant satisfaction as to our means of defence.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (The Earl of PORTSMOUTH): My Lords, I feel in this difficulty with regard to the Question put to me by my noble friend and the point raised by the noble and distinguished Lord who has just addressed us, that in questions of this kind we are dealing with matters of opinion rather than facts and figures. I hope I shall never be so extremely rash as to make a speech guaranteeing this country against invasion. Nothing is so uncertain as war, and even the greatest experts differ profoundly when they venture to prophesy in regard to military or naval matters.

If I were asked on what facts and figures I rested the contention that we have to look to the Navy to secure us against oversea invasion rather than the Army, I would refer my noble friend to the speech which Mr. Balfour made, with the fullest responsibility, as Prime Minister, and Chairman of the Imperial Defence Committee. With the general tenor and principles of that speech we agree. We feel that these questions should not be treated in any sense as Party matters, and that successive Governments should endeavour to carry out as far as they can some consistent policy, guided by the best advice obtainable, and endeavouring to co-ordinate the two great services in the defence of the Empire. I hope my noble friend will not think that I am lacking in courtesy, but it is impossible for me to lay upon the Table of the House what he is pleased to call the facts and figures on which Mr. Balfour based his speech in May, 1905, because the proceedings of the Imperial Defence Committee are strictly confidential.

I deny that we ought to act upon what I may call the theory of treachery. If either Germany or France were to act in the way indicated by noble Lords, they would be guilty of the grossest acts of treachery, acts which would be certainly contrary to the whole experience of civilisation and to every practice of modern diplomacy. But before I touch upon that I would compare the condition of things prevailing at the end of January—the nearest date I can get to February 13th, with that which obtained when Mr. Balfour made his calculations. He made his calculations on the basis of a French raid—because France was much nearer to us than any other country—he assumed a state of the Army such as existed at the lowest point touched during the South African war, namely, at the end of February, 1900. The figures he quoted were 17,000 infantry and cavalry and twenty-six batteries of artillery, which constituted the whole Regular forces that we had at home in organised units at that date. On the other hand, at the end of January of this year we had in England alone, exclusive of the troops in Ireland, 70,000 infantry and cavalry, twelve batteries of horse artillery, seventy-two batteries of field artillery, and in addition the Departmental Corps such as the garrison artillery and the Army Service and Ordnance Corps. If I were to contrast the state of the Auxiliary Forces in the general comparison on those two dates, it would show a still more favourable result. I have omitted bringing into the comparison the Auxiliary Forces, because it has been admitted by military experts that in case of an invasion the invading country would certainly send their best troops, against whom, if they landed, the Auxiliary Forces would be very little good, and that we should have to rely in that case upon our Regular troops. That, my Lords, puts the case of the Army.

Now, what is the case that my noble friend brings before you? The whole contention of the noble Lord opposite, who puts the case of the absence of our ships at the manœuvres off Lagos, is based on the theory that our nearest neighbours are practically brigands. That is really what it comes to. The noble Lord who initiated this discussion and also the noble Earl on the cross benches referred to some interesting remarks by Sir Frederick Maurice in regard to warlike hostilities occurring before declarations of war. I do not dispute that; but a great deal of water has to run under the bridge between strained relations and the declarations of war. In this connection I would quote the words used by Lord Lansdowne in the Report of the Select Committee on the Channel Tunnel in 1883, of which he was chairman. The noble Marquess said—

> "We do not take the view that the contingency of a *coup de main* struck by a Power with whom our relations have been friendly and unstrained is one which we have any right or which experience would justify us in placing amongst the foremost of the probabilities with which we have to deal. It is our impression, on the contrary, that, if such an attack were to be made, it would be preceded by circumstances which would have called for effectual precautions against surprise."

The noble Marquess went on to say—

> "We observe with pleasure that this view is that apparently entertained by His Royal Highness the Commander-in-Chief (the Duke of Cambridge) and by Sir Lintorn Simmons."

With the permission of the House I should like to read what the evidence of these two distinguished soldiers was on this question. The Duke of Cambridge was asked—

> "I think your Royal Highness has admitted that although in very many instances acts of war have been committed before war had been formally proclaimed, that has never been the case until after the relations had been strained between the countries?"

and the answer of His Royal Highness was—

> "Certainly."

The question put to Sir Lintorn Simmons was as follows—

> "You have spoken of acts of war having preceded declarations of war. Those are notorious cases. We have ourselves taken ships of war before war has been declared, and I daresay cases may be found where we have even attacked small distant fortresses before war was declared. But have you ever known such acts as those taking place until the political relations between the two countries have become very strained?"

Sir Lintorn Simmons replied—

> "Certainly not; at least I cannot recall any."

With regard to the position now placed before the House by Lord Lovat, it is perfectly clear that our fleets would never have been away at Lagos unless our relations with our neighbours were perfectly friendly and unstrained.

The Earl of Portsmouth.

The Government do not wish it to be assumed that they accept the view of the extreme Blue Water school. But if we are to suppose that France or Germany, in a time of profound peace, when our Foreign Office tell us they can see not the slightest difference of opinion, would be guilty of an act of treachery of that kind, then we must alter our whole national life. We must alter our procedure at Portsmouth and on the Forth and other places. It would be impossible to carry on our commercial life at all if every night these places were to be fully manned and all the entrances were to be protected as if we expected a raid. In all these matters the Government have to be guided, not by extreme improbabilities, but by reasonable commercial and national risks.

I can assure the noble Lord that the Committee of National Defence have most carefully considered all these questions. There are schemes prepared for the defence of all defended ports, which it is confidently anticipated will be in a position to resist any sudden attack. These schemes have been drawn up with the full concurrence of the Admiralty, and the two services are in entire accord as to the measures which should be taken for the defence of the country. While I can assure noble Lords that the whole of these questions are receiving the fullest consideration, I do not think it is consistent with common sense, and hardly consistent with good international manners, to assume that nations with whom we are on the best of terms are prepared to act towards us in a manner which, if committed by his own Government, every Englishman would consider most disgraceful.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I should not have intervened in this discussion but for the reference to myself made by the noble Earl in the concluding part of his speech. The object of my noble friend who introduced this subject, and the object of the noble and gallant Field Marshal on the cross benches, is, I take it, to impress upon this House and the public the necessity of not imagining that the safety of this country can be secured merely by the possession of a powerful Navy. At the outset of his speech the noble and gallant Earl said—

"Do not let us trust to the Navy alone."

I have yet to discover a public man in any position of responsibility who is prepared to say that he does trust to the Navy alone. I do not think it is the view of His Majesty's present advisers. We know that the Secretary of State for War has devoted himself to the preparation of a very elaborate scheme for the improvement of our Home Army, the purport of which is likely to be made known to us before long. It certainly was not the view of the late Government. I challenge anyone to find any statement by any member of the late Government to the effect that our naval supremacy was in itelf sufficient to justify us in relaxing our vigilance in military matters.

My noble friend who spoke first referred to the often-quoted speech made by Mr. Balfour in the House of Commons in May, 1905, and he referred to that speech as one which, in his opinion, was a very regrettable one, because it gave the impression that Mr. Balfour at any rate was content to rely upon the security given to us by a very powerful Navy. But criticisms of that kind—and they have have not been made to-night for the first time—are surely made by people who have not taken the trouble to read Mr. Balfour's speech with the attention which it deserves. I have more than once read that speech, and let me venture to insist again upon this that throughout his closely reasoned and cogent argument Mr. Balfour postulated that we should have a sufficient and powerful Army for home defence. That was the bedrock of his argument. Although it was not possible on that occasion for Mr. Balfour to give facts and figures, any more than it is possible for the noble Earl representing the War Office to do so this evening, Mr. Balfour did give very fully the arguments based upon the facts and figures which had been supplied to the Imperial Defence Committee, over which he presided with so much distinction. And, unless I am very much mistaken, Mr. Balfour, when he mentioned 70,000 as the *minimum* force with which any foreign Power was likely to attempt the invasion of this country, relied upon the advice of my noble and gallant friend upon the cross benches. Mr. Balfour was able to show that even at the time when the South African war had been some time in progress and we were most denuded of troops there was a considerable residuum of regular troops left in the country, besides a large number of Auxiliary Forces. He showed further that even upon the assumption that the Mediterranean, the Atlantic, and the Channel Fleets were employed in foreign waters, there could be made ready in a few hours six first-class battleships and six first-class cruisers, while there would be in commission in home waters twelve cruisers besides a number of gun-boats, destroyers, and torpedo-boats, irrespective of a large number of ships in reserve with nucleus crews. He therefore contended that even on the most unfavourable assumption there would yet remain available a very considerable naval force for the purpose of repelling an invasion. If the corresponding figures were to be taken for the time through which we are now passing, they would not be less favourable. I imagine that, even assuming our main fleets were away, we should yet have a very large force of vessels sufficiently powerful to engage with great effect the kind of flotilla that might be employed for the purpose of conveying an invading force across the sea that girds these islands. I hope, therefore, that I may assume that when my noble friend presses his views upon His Majesty's Government he is really preaching to those already converted, and that they have no idea either of diminishing the naval force available for the purpose of resisting invasion, or of neglecting the efficiency and strength of that home army with which an invader would have to reckon if he had effected a landing.

I wish to say one word as to what fell from the Under-Secretary when he told us that in his view the anticipation of a sudden invasion rested upon a theory of international treachery. The noble Lord quoted the Report of a Joint Committee of the two Houses of Parliament, which sat in 1883, and of which I had the honour to be president. Let me say at once—and I am not sorry to have an opportunity of saying it—that I must protest against the assumption that, because twenty-four years ago I committed myself to certain strategical views derived from the evidence tendered to us by witnesses, I am to be held bound to the same views in the year through which we are now passing. I say frankly that if I had to sit down and write a Report on the question of the Channel Tunnel to-day, I do not think I should write the same Report that I drafted in 1883.

The possibility of hostilities without a previous declaration of war is certainly one which I do not regard as having been disposed of by the Report which the noble Earl has quoted, nor does the evidence adduced in the remarkable compilation of Sir Frederick Maurice deserve by any means to be lightly put on one side. It certainly shows that the contingency of sudden surprises is one which ought never to be kept wholly out of mind. It is quite true that we can scarcely contemplate that at a moment when international relations are in no sense strained, when there is no outstanding difficulty between two great civilised Powers, one of those Powers would be at all likely to spring suddenly on the other. But there may, on the other hand, be periods of international tension when complications may supervene with great rapidity and when it is the duty of any Power that values its own safety to leave no precaution neglected. Therefore I am not at all disposed to neglect the possibility of what is sometimes called a bolt from the blue, or to think that ample precautions should not be taken to provide for such a contingency.

To my mind this debate is the more satisfactory because it has disclosed a certain consensus of opinion on both sides of the House to the effect that in this as in other cases you cannot separate the military from the naval question, and that it is the duty of those who are responsible for the safety of this country to see to it that in neither the one direction nor the other is any precaution neglected which might be necessary to secure the safety of these islands.

LORD TWEEDMOUTH: My Lords, I agree with the noble Marquess who has just sat down that we ought not, whether we are connected with the Army or with the Navy, to neglect the possibility of a sudden attack, and that we are bound, whether we are connected with the Army or the Navy, to take every precaution to secure ourselves against a surprise. I am sorry my noble friend opposite should have become a sort of mouthpiece of the alarmists and scaremongers who are so very prevalent at present. I think that in order to take up that position you must assume a perfect series of hypotheses to be true. In the first place you must assume that the sea is no longer the main defence of this country. Naval history shows that the sea has been our defence in the past, and I hope it will be the same in the future.

Then it has been assumed that foreign nations are anxious to attack us. At this moment we are in the most supreme agreement with all the great nations of the world. I do not think there is a shadow of difference between ourselves and them—certainly no difference that would be likely to lead us into war. Then my noble friend also has assumed what is certainly not the case now—that the Army is away. I think there is no doubt that at this moment the Regular Army is as able to defend our shores as ever it was. At this moment, if called upon, it would be prepared to pit itself against a raiding force and give a good account of itself. Then it is assumed that our fleets would be away. Certainly they are not away now. I cannot admit my noble friend's statement that the fleet is really at any impossible distance at all. Again my noble friend has entirely forgotten the fact that we have a very large force of destroyers and submarines all along the coast, which would be exceedingly awkward for an attacking fleet, or still more for a force of unarmoured vessels which were attempting to land troops on our shores.

My noble friend has said that our ships in reserve are not ready to fight and are not equal to those that would be brought against us. I do not quite agree with him. I think the average British ship, even a ship in reserve, would be quite equal to the ships that the Germans could bring against us. Still more will that be the case when the whole of the Home Fleet is organised as it will be in the course of the next six or eight weeks. My noble friend seemed to think that Continental nations had a monopoly of information, that they could know exactly what our condition is, whereas our own Intelligence Department was exceedingly bad. I dispute the fact. I maintain that our methods of getting information are as good as those of any foreign country, and that now our means of information are greater than ever, owing to the development of wireless telegraphy and the good system we have adopted of that great new invention.

I think my noble friend has not established his case. I think he should have proved that the hypotheses he put forward would be realised before he ventured to raise this question. I believe at this moment, at any rate, and, as far as we can see, for some considerable time, we may look our enemies in the face, if we have any—we may look foreign nations in the face and declare that we are only desirous to preserve the peace of the world, and that whilst we are determined always to be in a position to fight, if we are called upon to do so, yet, so far as we can help it, we shall always use our forces in order to keep peace and not to make war.

LORD LOVAT: My Lords, I regret that the noble Earl is not going to give the information for which I asked. I disclaim any desire for the disclosure of secret documents, but it must be remembered that when Mr. Balfour made his statement he gave certain definite figures. I have shown, however, that the assumption on which Mr. Balfour proceeded as to the proportion between men and tonnage needs revision. This is one of the matters in respect of which official statistics should be given. Mr. Balfour's calculations also had reference to the amount of tonnage in French ports; but the figures which I have given in regard to German ports alter this factor likewise. I must adhere to my statement —that the effect of Mr. Balfour's speech has been regrettable. Those who are interested in recruiting for the Auxiliary Forces have found themselves met with the remark—"Mr. Balfour says the country will not be invaded; why should we serve?" I was unable to follow the answer I received as to the Volunteers, or how it is made out that we are in a better position with regard to Volunteers to-day than formerly. On the question of brigandage, we have been the chief brigands. In the list of those who have fought before a declaration of war we come second, with, I think, a total of thirty instances. We secured the fleet of poor harmless Denmark one morning, although we had no quarrel with the nation. The Dogger Bank incident took place when the Channel Fleet was as far off as it is to-day. At a great crisis the Fleet was two and a half days' steam from the East Coast. Our equality with the Germans could only be established by the speech we have heard if the assumption is that one Englishman is equal to two Germans. I am sorry to be included amongst the alarmists. It is my last wish to be an alarmist, but I view with grave anxiety the prospect that our Fleet, hampered by the want of a good Army behind it, will never be able to search out the enemy in the ports should we ever come to a war.

THE MARQUESS OF RIPON: I do not rise to continue the debate, but to ask the noble Lord whether the House is to understand that the Motion he has put down is withdrawn.

LORD LOVAT assented.

Motion, by leave, withdrawn.

House adjourned at five minutes past Six o'clock till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 18th February, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. **SPEAKER** laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been compled with, viz., Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill; Lancashire and

Yorkshire Railway Bill; Maidstone Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PETITIONS.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Heaton Moor, for prohibition; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour; from Bolton; Christchurch and Bournemouth; Stony Stratford, and Stratford-on-Avon; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending The Leek, Caldon Low, and Hartington Light Railways Order, 1898 (Leek, Caldon Low, and Hartington Light Railways (Borrowing and Further Powers Amendment) Order, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of Light Railways in the borough of Maidstone and in the rural district of Maidstone and on the boundary of the rural district of Hollingbourne, in the county of Kent (Maidstone Corporation Light Railways (Extensions) Order, 1907) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, amending the Warrington and Northwich Light Railways Order, 1903 (Warrington and Northwich Light Railways (Extension of Time) Order, 1907) [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LIGHT RAILWAYS ACT, 1896.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Light Railway Commissioners, and modified and confirmed by the Board of Trade, authorising the construction of a Light Railway in the parish of Wembley, in the county of Middlesex, being an extension of the Light Railways authorised by The County of Middlesex Light Railways Order, 1903, and the taking of lands for widening roads on which the said Light Railways will be laid in the parishes of Hendon, of Southgate, and of Edmonton, in the said county (County of Middlesex Light Railways (Extension and Lands) Order, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

CONSOLIDATED FUND.

Abstract Account presented, showing the issues made from the Consolidated Fund of the United Kingdom in the financial year ended 31st March, 1906, for the Interest and Management of the Debt, for the Civil List, and for all other Issues in the financial year for services charged directly on the said Fund; with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 18.]

TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANKS.

Copy presented, of Fifteenth Annual Report of the Proceedings of the Inspection Committee for the year ended 20th November, 1906, with Appendices [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 19.]

NATIONAL DEBT (MILITARY SAVINGS BANKS).

Account presented, of the Gross Amount of all Moneys received and paid by the Commissioners for the reduction of the National Debt on account of the Fund for Military Savings Banks, from 19th September, 1845, to the 5th January, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 20.]

NAVY (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT).

Copy presented, of the Appropriation Account of the Navy for 1905–6, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, and upon the Store Accounts of the Navy [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 21.]

SUPERANNUATION ACTS, 1887.

Copies presented, of Treasury Minutes granting a retired allowance to each of the following, viz.: Charles Walter Maies Anderson, late Assistant Superintendent, Central Telegraph Office, London; Thomas Davidson Brown, late First Class Engineer, Engineer-in-Chief's Department, Post Office [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (ELECTORS, &c.) (UNITED KINGDOM).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 13th February; *Sir Charles Dilke*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 22.]

PENAL SERVITUDE ACTS (CONDITIONAL LICENCE).

Copy presented, of Licence to be at large granted to Jack Dawson, to which are annexed conditions other than those contained in Schedule A of The Penal Servitude Act, 1864 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of shops within the Borough [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PAUPERISM (ENGLAND AND WALES) (MONTHLY STATEMENTS).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 15th February; *Dr. Macnamara*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 23.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3744 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

EDUCATION (SCOTLAND).

Copy presented, of Report for the year 1906 by the Director on the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POST).

Copy presented, of the Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Amendment (No. 1) Warrant, 1906, dated 20th December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

1. Inquiry into Charities (County of Wilts). Further Return relative thereto [ordered 9th August, 1901; *Mr. Griffith-Boscawen*]; to be printed. [No. 24.]

2. Public Records (Inland Revenue Department). Copy of Second Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents in the Department of the Inland Revenue which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [by Act].

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Transfer of Glasgow Telephone Officials to Post Office Service.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General on what terms officials of the municipal telephone service at Glasgow are being transferred to the Post Office service; and whether he will take such steps as will effectually prevent any cases of hardship, collective or individual, to the present members of the Post Office engineering department.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The employees of the corporation telephone service at Glasgow are being transferred to the Post Office service in the first instance on the same terms and conditions as those which applied to their service under the corporation. In any arrangements for their incorporation in the Post Office service I shall endeavour to secure that injustice is not done either to present or future members of that service.

Sentence on Stoker Moody.

SIR FRANCIS CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is now proposed to reconsider the sentences passed by courts-martial on Stoker Moody and others at Portsmouth, with a view to their further mitigation or remission.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I must refer my hon. friend to the Answer made by the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydfil on 17th December last,† to which there is at present nothing to add.

Licensing Act, 1904—Licences Extinguished.

SIR EDWARD SASSOON (Hythe): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state with respect to The Licensing Act, 1904, how many licences have been extinguished since it came into force, and how many new licences have been sold at the monopoly value under the Act.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The volume entitled "Licensing Statistics, 1905" [Cd. 2961], and published last year, contained full information as to the operation of The Licensing Act, 1904, in the year 1905. In that volume 514 licences are shown as having been refused in 1905 under the Act of 1904, and forty-seven licences as having been granted and confirmed under the new provisions of Section 4 of that Act. A similar volume for 1906 is now in active preparation, and will, I hope, be ready for publication shortly.

Leith Shop Closing Orders.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he has yet confirmed the closing orders made by the Town Council of Leith under The Shop Hours Act, 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) Strong local objection has been taken to certain of these orders, and a communication has been made to the town council indicating my view in regard to their confirmation. The orders have not yet been confirmed.

Trawling in the Moray Firth.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state why Scottish Fishery Board cruisers have recently failed to arrest foreign trawlers which they have observed to be trawling in the Moray Firth.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that the failure on the part of the Scottish Fishery Board cruisers to arrest foreign trawlers observed working in the Moray Firth enables such trawlers to trawl until sufficient fish have been caught to pay any fine which may subsequently be imposed, will he consider the expediency of giving instructions for the gear of such trawlers to be seized immediately they are detected working in the Firth.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) In reply to these Questions I have to inform the hon. Member that the point submitted has been carefully considered. In omitting to arrest foreign trawlers detected trawling in the Moray Firth or to seize the gear, the Fishery Board cruisers have acted under instructions advisedly given. Every detection has been reported to the authorities and in many instances prosecution has followed.

Scottish Fishery Board and Penalties for Breaches of Fisheries Laws.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will introduce, at an early date, a Bill arranging for penalties recovered for breaches of fishery statutes to be placed at the disposal of the Scottish Fishery Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The Answer is in the affirmative.

Supply of Flour to Military Stations.

LORD J. JOICEY-CECIL (Lincolnshire, Stamford): To ask the Secretary of State for War what is the quantity of flour used at the various military stations in England where bread is not supplied to the troops by contract; and what is the average price per 280 lbs. sack at each.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1009.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The quantities are as follows:—

	Number of Sacks of 280 lbs. each yearly.
Aldershot - - -	22,679
Chatham - - -	2,200
Netley Portsmouth	4,528
Shorncliffe - - -	3,089
Woolwich - - -	4,857
Total - -	37,353

The general average contract price per sack for the whole of these stations for the period 1st December, 1906, to 31st May, 1907, is 20*s.* 2½*d.* The particular contract price at each station is confidential.

Trading Licences in Natal.

Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that, under Act No. 18 of 1897, the Natal Traders' Licensing Act, a licensing officer appointed by the town council, or other local body, may refuse to grant or continue a trading licence without any appeal except to such town council or other local body; and whether he will take such steps as may under present circumstances be possible, in order to obtaining fair and equal consideration for East Indian British subjects in Natal.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Act provides as stated. Representations have recently been made as to the effect of the Act, and I am in communication with the Governor of Natal on the subject.

Licences issued to Chinese Coolies.

Mr. TOULMIN (Bury, Lancashire): To ask the Under-Secretary for the Colonies how many licences for indentured Chinese were issued in the Transvaal and the date of the last issued licences; the amount of wastage through death, repatriation, or any other cause before and since 31st December, 1905; and the number now employed on the mines.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The total number of licences issued was 63,043 (exclusive of 3,000 for the Randfontein group of mines, which the owners agreed to surrender). The last of these licences was issued on 18th November, 1905. The total amount of wastage from all causes was, up to 31st December, 1905, approximately 3,500, and since that date approximately 3,600. The total number of coolies employed on 31st December, 1906, was 52,917.

The Suez Canal Company.

Mr. HENNIKER HEATON (Canterbury): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the capital of the Suez Canal Company and the number of shares; how many of these shares and how much of this money is invested by the British Government; whether he is aware that the dividend on the Canal shares amounts to 28 per cent., and that as much as £2,000 was paid by one steamer for the privilege of passing through the Canal; whether the correspondence between the Prime Minister of Australia and the British Government on the appeal of Australia to reduce the Suez Canal transit duties, with a view to encourage traffic between the Home Country and the Colonies and India, will be laid upon the Table of the House without delay.

(*Answered by Secretary Sir Edward Grey.*) The capital originally consisted of 400,000 shares of 500 francs each. Of these 15,428 shares had been redeemed up to 1st January, 1907. 176,602 shares were purchased by His Majesty's Government at a cost of £3,976,582. I understand that the facts are correctly stated in the third part of the Question. The correspondence between the Colonial Office and the Governor-General of Australia has already been published in that Continent. Papers will be presented to Parliament here.

Issue of Volumes of the Rolls Series to Public Libraries.

Mr. COURTENAY WARNER (Staffordshire, Lichfield): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, in view of the cost to the public of editing, indexing, and preparing the various volumes of the Rolls Series, he will arrange that in the future more numbers should be printed, and that they should be supplied gratis or at a small charge to such public libraries as may apply for them, seeing that these volumes can, at present, only be consulted, unless purchased, at the British Museum, which greatly curtails their value for purposes of research.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman*). Considerably more copies used to be printed and the surplus stock distributed, but the practice was altered owing to the extravagance to which it was found to lead. I understand, however, that public libraries receive a special reduction of 25 per cent. in the price of the volumes which they purchase. I do not think it desirable to extend this concession.

Issue of the Irish Debates and the Statutes of Session 1906.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he can state the reason for the delay in issuing the bound volumes of Irish Debates and the Acts passed in the last session of Parliament.

MR. JOHN ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he is aware that the usual bound and indexed copy of the Statutes for the Session of 1906 is not yet out; who is responsible for the delay, and when will it be available for Members.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman*). I hope that the Irish Debates will be published by the last day of this month. The bound volumes of the Acts passed last Session will, I believe, be ready for delivery to-day. In both cases the delay is due to the prolongation of the session, but with regard to the Acts I may observe that notwithstanding the prolongation of the session a reduction of twelve days has been effected in the interval between the adjournment and the issue of the bound volumes.

Erection of Fishing Pier at Ballaghalin, County Clare.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland when the Bill will be introduced to enable the Clare County Council to avail of the money allocated to be spent on the fishing pier at Ballaghalin, county Clare.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry*). The question of introducing legislation extending the power of local authorities to contribute to works of the nature referred to in the Question is at present under the consideration of His Majesty's Government, but no date can at present be fixed by the introduction of a Bill for the purpose.

Blackburn Unemployed.

MR. TOULMIN: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to a recent investigation at Blackburn into the figures of unemployment published by the Board; and whether these statistics class as unemployed persons who have left their work owing to disputes, persons who are under engagements but who cannot work owing to seasonal conditions or to temporary sickness, and persons who are superannuated; and whether he will consider the advisability of analysing representative returns from various districts, and so amending the returns as to give a reliable statement of the number of able-bodied men and women unable to find situations, with a view to devising measures of relief from such a condition.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) I have seen a newspaper report of a lecture at Blackburn upon this subject, but, so far as I can judge from this report, the investigation was based on an entire misconception as to the method by which the percentages of unemployed published by the Board of Trade are arrived at. Had the investigator addressed an inquiry on this subject to the Board of Trade his error could have been readily pointed out. As regards the specific questions asked by my hon. friend, the Answer in each case is in the negative. The percentage of unemployed, as published in the *Labour Gazette*, is based upon figures supplied direct to the Department by trade unions paying unemployed benefit, and they relate to members actually out of work, those on strike or lock-out, sick, or superannuation being excluded. I have every reason to believe that the figures are trustworthy for the purpose for which they are intended, viz., to indicate fluctuations in employment.

Limited Liability Companies—Compulsory Reserve Funds.

MR. HYDE (Wednesbury): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware of the existence of compulsory reserve funds for limited liability companies in foreign countries, especially in France and Belgium; and whether he will cause inquiries to be made with a view to showing the countries in which such reserve funds are legally required and the formation and extent of such reserve funds, the investment of the moneys forming such reserve funds, and the purposes to which such reserve funds may be applied.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Steps will be taken to obtain some information on the subject from the principal European countries.

Appointments to Position of Assistant Inspectors of Postmen.

MR. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that a junior assistant inspector of postmen has been for some time employed in the discharge of confidential and other special duties at Glasgow; whether the class from which this inspector was selected may expect that further selections for like promotion will be made from the senior officers of that class; and, if not, will he say why.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The assistant inspector of postmen in question has not been promoted. He has merely been charged with certain duties in connection with the preparation of a revision of the outdoor staff for which his experience and aptitudes qualify him in a particular degree. He receives no additional pay for performing these duties, and his selection for them involves no injustice to the seniors of his class, one of whom in fact is employed on the same duties as himself.

Dog Licences—Exemptions.

SIR JOSEPH LEESE (Lancashire, Accrington): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture whether he is aware that, under the new regulations in regard to dog licences whereby exemption from payment for licences for farmers is no longer left to the discretion of the Excise officers, but must now be subject to magisterial sanction, notices of objection have been sent to many farmers in Oswaldtwistle Church, Clayton le Moors, and Altham, in Lancashire, by the clerk to the magistrates of the Church petty sessional division, without previously prepaying the postage of such notices of objection, and that in all cases these notices have been surcharged to the recipients, and whether he proposes to take any action by legislation or otherwise in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) My hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. I understand that the facts are as stated, and I think the notices should have been prepaid. At the same time, I think that if, as seems to be the case, a magistrate's clerk has to pay this postage out of his own pocket, a considerable hardship is involved, and I am communicating this opinion to the Board of Agriculture.

Excessive Hours of Shop Assistants.

MR. C. J. O'DONNELL (Newington, Walworth): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the inquest on the 14th instant, at Poplar, on the body of George Watts, a married shop assistant; whether the hours of work of the dead man had been from 8.30 a.m. to 11.30 p.m., and to 12.15 a.m. on Saturdays; whether his wages had been 15s. a week, or 2d. an hour; and whether he proposed to take steps to make such excessive hours of labour in shops on starvation wages impossible.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) I have seen a newspaper report of this case, from which the facts appear to have been substantially as stated in my hon. friend's Question. The death seems to have been due to a combination of ill-health, poverty, and overwork, and the case is a very distressing one. But, as my hon. friend knows, the questions of minimum wage and hours of individual employment involve problems of the greatest importance and complexity. They are receiving and will receive the closest attention I can give them, but I cannot give any promise of legislation at the present time.

Separation of Judicial and Executive Functions in India.

Mr. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether any definite conclusion has been arrived at as to the separation of judicial and executive functions in India.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave to-day to a similar Question by the hon. Member for East Nottingham.†

Administration of Indian Army Family Pension Fund.

Mr. HART-DAVIES: To ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the dissatisfaction which exists with the present administration of the Indian Army Family Pension Fund; and whether he will take into consideration the advisability of publishing periodically the accounts of the fund for the benefit of the subscribers.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I would refer the hon. Member to the Answer I gave to the hon. Member for Central Hull in reply to a similar Question on Thursday last.‡

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of T. Sproulle of Ederney, Co. Fermanagh.

Mr. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received a memorial from Thomas Sproulle, of Ederney, county Fermanagh, an evicted tenant on the Burnside estate; if so, have they made inquiry into his case, and with what result; have the Estates Commissioners acquired, or taken any steps to acquire, any untenanted land in the district of Ederney on which to allot new holdings to evicted tenants; and would Thomas Sproulle be eligible to receive a grant of money to stock a new holding if allotted to him.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have received the application in question, and have referred it to their inspector for investigation, but his report has not yet been received. The Commissioners have not yet acquired untenanted land in the district, and no proceedings for the acquisition of such land are pending before them. In the event of Sproulle's reinstatement, the Commissioners will consider any application he may make for a grant or loan to stock his farm.

Arklow Harbour.

Sir THOMAS ESMONDE (Wexford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Government have decided upon the course to be taken with regard to Arklow Harbour.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The provisional scheme which was agreed upon at the recent conference between the Department of Agriculture, the Arklow Harbour Board, and Messrs. Kynoch, has since been submitted to the Irish Government, and is now under consideration. A decision will be arrived at as soon as possible.

Inspection of Colonel Digby's Estate, County Westmeath.

Mr. DONAL SULLIVAN (Westmeath, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he now can state whether an inspection of Colonel Digby's estate at Ballinacurra, Moyvore, county Westmeath, has taken place by the inspectors of the Irish Estates Commissioners, and with what result; whether the evicted tenants are likely to be restored to their former holdings; and whether the former negotiations for the sale of this estate were blocked by the action of a large grazier who holds these evicted farms on the eleven months system, and who refuses to restore the lands to the former tenants, although offered full compensation for any loss or improvements made on the lands by him.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners understand that this Question relates to the estate of W. R. Digby, county Westmeath. No proceedings for the sale of that estate have been instituted before the Commissioners, and no inspection has therefore taken place. The Commissioners have received an application from one evicted tenant for reinstatement on the estate, but the applicant is ineligible under the Act. The Commissioners have no knowledge of the facts alleged in the concluding part of the Question.

---

† See Col. 538.
‡ See Col. 296.

Night Schools—Ireland.

MR. MURPHY: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can state the number of night schools in each province in Ireland for the years 1904, 1905, and 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The figures are as follows:—

—	1904.	1905.	1906.
Ulster - -	353	254	167
Munster - .	122	115	85
Leinster - -	115	83	65
Connaught - -	246	179	155

Working Hours of English and Irish Prison Warders.

MR. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the average number of working hours performed weekly by the English prison warders, whose salaries have been increased to £70, £80, and £90 per year from the beginning of the next financial year; if he will state the average number of working hours performed weekly by the Irish prison warders, exclusive of Mountjoy and Maryborough prisons; and whether it is the intention of the Government to increase the salaries of the Irish prison warders from £50 to £60 per year to the same standard as the English prison warders, seeing that the Irish prison warders have to perform as hard and laborious duties as those of the English.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The General Prisons Board for Ireland have no knowledge of the number of hours of duty of English prison warders. The average number of hours of duty of warders in Irish local prisons varies according to the circumstances of the different prisons, but generally may be taken to be from sixty-three to sixty-eight hours a week. The salaries quoted in the Question are not properly comparable, those for England being apparently maximum salaries, and those for Ireland the minimum. The question of the salaries of Irish prison warders will shortly come up for consideration.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Retired Naval Officers and the Press.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been drawn to public attacks by Admiral C. C. Penrose Fitzgerald and Captain F. W. Lowther, R.N., on Commodore Galloway and Admiral Sir John Fisher; and whether, in the interests of discipline in the Navy, he will state what action he proposes taking with regard to these two retired officers to prevent a repetition of similar conduct on their part.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The Admiralty would deprecate any interference with the free expression by retired naval officers of their opinions on all naval and political questions; but while they regret that retired officers have occasionally shown themselves lacking in the discretion which the responsibility of their position requires, it is not considered that the power of removing an officer's name from the list, with the consequent forfeiture of retired pay, should be exercised in any but the gravest cases.

H.M.S. "Commonwealth."

MR. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can give the House any information as to the collision between H.M.S. "Albemarle" and H.M.S. "Commonwealth."

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The collision occurred on the night of the 11th instant while the ships were proceeding to Lagos for the manœuvres. The damage to the "Albemarle" was slight, and the estimated cost of repairing her is £750. The damage to the "Commonwealth" was more serious, and will cost about £6,000 to repair. No one was injured. Both ships were able to steam to Gibraltar, and the "Albemarle" has now gone to rejoin the fleet at manœuvres at Lagos.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): Will the "Commonwealth" be removed from the firing line for a long period?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: No I think not.

Woolwich Explosion—Compensation.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the extent of the damage and loss caused by the recent explosions at Woolwich; and whether he proposes to offer any compensation to the sufferers by this disaster.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): As I explained to the House on Thursday last,† the Government propose to contribute towards the cost of making good the damage done by the recent explosion at Woolwich, and a preliminary sum of £6,000 has been forwarded to meet the more necessitous cases.

Disbanded Battalions—Position of Transferred Officers.

MR. RADFORD (Islington, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether officers of the recently disbanded battalions are, on transfer, placed as juniors of their rank in the new regiment; and, if so, whether, in view of the loss of seniority incurred by these officers, he will take steps to discriminate between a transfer made in consequence of a reduction of establishment and a transfer made on an officer's own initiative, seeing that in the Indian Army an officer is transferred from one regiment to another without lost of seniority.

MR. HALDANE: These officers have been so treated in accordance with the provisions of the King's Regulations; but no officer has been so transferred without his consent nor without a knowledge of this condition. Steps will be taken to discriminate between officers transferred on reduction of establishment and those transferred on their own initiative by considering the former for the offer of extra regimental promotion when their length of service appears to justify it, irrespective of their position on the regimental list. In the Indian Army promotion up to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel is regulated by the length of service from date of first permanent commission, irrespective of the regiment, and consequently promotion is unaffected by transfer from one regiment to another. In the British service, where promotion goes regimentally, such a condition does not apply.

Plain Clothes Regulations at Malta.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the General Officer Commanding, Malta Command, has ordered that plain clothes are not to be worn in his command by non-commissioned officers and men granted pass or furlough; and whether, in view of the second sentence of paragraph 1955, King's Regulations, which empowers commanding officers to give permission to wear plain clothes to non-commissioned officers and men granted pass or furlough, he would give instructions that non-commissioned officers and men in Malta are to be granted the same privileges as regards the wearing of plain clothes when on pass or furlough as obtain in other commands.

MR. HALDANE: The Army Council have received no report from the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief as to whether he has found it necessary to issue special instructions relative to paragraph 1955 of the King's Regulations, which local circumstances may demand. Inquiries on this point are being made.

Death Sentences on Soldiers.

MR. LEA: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any soldier of His Majesty's forces, serving either at home or abroad, was sentenced to death by the military authorities during the year 1906; and, if so, what were the crimes in each casé, where were the crimes committed, and, in the event of the capital sentence having been carried out, were the executions held in public.

---

† See Col. 299.

MR. HALDANE: No such case has occurred in 1906.

Army Medical Service Advisory Board.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if he will state why no member of a Scottish medical school has been placed on the Army Medical Service Advisory Board.

MR. HALDANE: When the new Advisory Board was formed it was decided that, in order to ensure prompt consideration of questions of importance, it was essential that all the Members should be in the closest possible touch with the Army Medical Administration, and, therefore, as far as possible, at hand. Experience of the methods of working the former Board shewed that, to be effective, constant personal communication, not only with the Board as a whole, but with individual Members was necessary. This is why so many of those selected are resident in London.

MR. WEIR: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that there are many eminent medical Scotsmen resident in London?

MR. HALDANE: That may be so. I have to look, however, to the efficiency of the service rather than to any other considerations. I should be the last person not to desire to appoint a Scotsman.

MR. WEIR: I think it is a slur on the country to suggest that the Scottish medical men in London are not as capable as those belonging to English schools.

Wireless Telegraphy in India.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether experiments have been made in India as to the possibility of wireless telegraphic communication across mountain ranges; and whether, if the answer be in the affirmative, he will communicate to the House such information as may, with due regard to the public interests, be published.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (MR. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I have seen a paragraph in a newspaper, stating that some such experiments have been successfully tried, but I have no other information on the subject. If I receive any Report from the Government of India, I will consider whether the information which it contains can be communicated to the House.

Indian Legislative Councils.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the special committee of the Executive Council in India which was appointed last summer to inquire into and report on the reorganisation of the Legislative Councils in that country has submitted its Report.

MR. MORLEY: The Report has been under the consideration of the Executive Council, and I expect a dispatch on the subject in a very short time. Of course the hon. Member will understand that this Report, like the proceedings of a Cabinet Committee here, is entirely confidential.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.): Is it the intention of the Government to give the House an opportunity of discussing this question before a final decision is arrived at?

MR. MORLEY: I think so undoubtedly.

Indian Administration.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is in a position to give any information regarding the submission of the Report on the separation of executive and judicial functions in India, called for from the Government of India in 1899 in consequence of a memorial on the subject, which was signed by the late Lord Hobhouse and other distinguished retired Members of the Indian Government.

MR. MORLEY: I asked the Government of India in June last to let me have their conclusions on this important question as soon as possible. The consideration of the large mass of evidence that has been collected necessarily takes time, but I anticipate that the Government of India will before long be in a position to address me on the subject.

SIR H. COTTON: Have the Government of India called for a fresh Report on this subject recently?

MR. MORLEY: I cannot say, but I will inquire.

St. Paul's School, Darjeeling.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he has now any information regarding special grants being given by the Government of Bengal to St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, the nature and extent of such grants, and the reasons for their being given.

MR. MORLEY: I have not yet received a reply to the inquiry I made on the subject towards the end of December last.

Sikhs in British Columbia.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Sikhs in British Columbia have been repatriated, or provided with the necessary protection in that country prior to repatriation.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): Of the 2,200 Indians who recently arrived in British Columbia, only fifty or sixty are understood to have been out of work at the beginning of this year. No destitution exists among them at present, and neither the municipal authorities nor the Government have been called upon to give support or relief, though several Indians who were allowed to land were supplied by private charity with clothing of which they were in need. No Indians were repatriated from Vancouver after being allowed to land, though about 125 were refused landing on account of disease; but forty-one were repatriated from Victoria, where there are also five Indians in gaol for vagrancy.

Wireless Telegraphy—German Operations in South West Africa.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Colonial Office has any Report of the use made of the Telefunken wireless telegraphy in the military operations of the Germans in South West Africa; and whether, in that case, such information will be placed before the Committee which is to sit to consider the Wireless Telegraphy International Convention.

MR. CHURCHILL: There are references of the kind in confidential Reports made to the War Office, and the question is being considered whether any of the information will be of use to the Committee.

British Indian Traders in Natal.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the position of the British Indian trading community of Ladysmith, Natal, several of whom are threatened with ruin by reason of the threatened refusal of the licensing officer to renew their store licences under the powers conferred upon him by the Natal Traders Licensing Act of 1897; and, whether, seeing that the licensing officer is the appointee of the town council, which is largely composed of merchants and storekeepers in competition with British Indian traders, he proposes to take any action in the matter.

I beg also to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the agitation against British Indian traders in Natal, and the danger to those British subjects from the power of local town councils to refuse renewal of trading licences according to The Natal Traders Licensing Act, 1897, which the Secretary of State for the Colonies warned the Natal Government would lead to serious steps unless the provisions of the Act were applied moderately and impartially; and whether he will address the Natal Government on the matter.

MR. CHURCHILL: I will answer these Questions together:—A Bill, the effect of which would have been to exclude Asiatics from trading licences, was recently introduced into the Natal Legislature, but leave to introduce it was refused. With regard to the Act of 1897 the Secretary of State is already in communication with the Natal Government. Inquiry will be made as to the case of the particular traders referred to.

Newfoundland.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the protest by the Premier of Newfoundland, in the Colonial Legislature, on Tuesday, against the humiliation of the Colony by the Imperial Government, the Secretary of State will lay upon the Table of the House all the correspondence that passed between the Colonial Government and His Majesty's Government with respect to the *modus vivendi* with the United States.

MR. CHURCHILL: All the correspondence with the Government of Newfoundland respecting the *modus vivendi* with the United States, up to the date of the conclusion of that arrangement, having already been laid before Parliament, I presume that the correspondence which the hon. Member desires to have published is that which has taken place since the conclusion of the *modus vivendi*. The Government of Newfoundland recently suggested publication of certain parts of this correspondence, but were informed that His Majesty's Government did not think this expedient until the Colonial Government were in possession of the reply of His Majesty's Government to the various objections taken by the Colonial Government to their action, that the preparation of this reply was delayed by the necessity of awaiting the result of the appeal to the Supreme Court of the two fishermen convicted under the Bait Act, since it was not possible to discuss the legal considerations urged by the Colonial Government until that result was known, and that in any case it seemed open to exception to publish papers on a matter still *sub judice*. I am unable to say when the decision of the Supreme Court will be given, but the hon. Member will no doubt agree that His Majesty's Government can hardly be expected to lay the correspondence while it is still incomplete.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield Central): Having regard to the debate in the Newfoundland Legislature cannot Papers be laid?

MR. CHURCHILL: It is not proposed to lay any further Papers at present, but when the transaction is completed no doubt it will be done.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): When did the *modus vivendi* of last year lapse?

MR. CHURCHILL: I must ask for notice of that.

Coolie Crime in the Transvaal Mines.

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the Report, recently issued in the Transvaal by the superintendent of foreign labour, showing that the Chinese coolies in the gold mines committed 736 assaults, including twenty-six murders and seven attempts to murder; and whether, in any case, and, if so, in how many cases, the sufferers from these crimes, or their families, have received any compensation from the employers of the criminals or from any other source.

MR. CHURCHILL: The exact figures are:—

Common assault	630
Assault with intent	78
Murder	26
Homicide	2
Attempted murder	7
	743

The majority of these outrages were probably committed on fellow labourers. No official information with regard to compensation has been received, but I will make inquiry.

MR. MACKARNESS: Then am I to understand that in no case has compensation been given?

MR. CHURCHILL: I did not say that; I said I have no official information. When I get it I shall be able to inform the hon. Member.

MR. LEHMANN (Leicestershire, Market Harborough): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been called to the Annual Report of the Foreign Labour Department of the Transvaal for 1905–6, which shows that among 47,600 Chinese coolies working in the Transvaal gold mines during the year to which the Report relates, there were no less than twenty-six convictions for murder, 210 for housebreaking, 307 for forgery, and eighty-nine for public violence; and whether, seeing that the proportion of crime thus shown is in excess of the proportion of the same crimes committed by the 10,000,000 of adult males of England and Wales, he will lay the Report upon the Table of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: The figures are correct. The Report shall be laid.

Transvaal Elections.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he would represent to the Government of the Transvaal the desirability of re-considering its refusal to grant a public holiday at the election shortly to be held, seeing that, owing to the nature of their employment, many miners may be far removed from the divisions in which they are registered.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is not prepared to intervene in the matter. The decision of the Transvaal has no doubt been arrived at after full consideration of the suggestion on its merits.

Transvaal Upper Chamber.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the intention of the Government to nominate the Members of the Upper Chamber in the Transvaal previous to the forthcoming election, or to await the result of that election.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State is in communication with the Governor, and cannot yet make a statement.

The Jamaica Earthquake.

MR. O. C. PHILIPPS (Pembroke and Haverfordwest): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether in view of the widespread distress caused by the Jamaica earthquake, the Government propose to recommend Parliament to make a free grant to assist the inhabitants towards rebuilding Kingston, Jamaica.

MR. CHURCHILL: Inquiries are in progress, but the full materials for a decision are not yet to hand.

Colonial Conference.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies if he is in a position to give the House the names of the Colonial statesmen delegated to the Colonial Conference, the date upon which the Conference will assemble, the order of the proceedings and the subjects which will be submitted to the Conference; and if the representatives of the Empire will be received, as on previous occasions, as guests of the nation; and upon what date such official visit will commence and terminate.

MR. CHURCHILL: The names of the Prime Ministers who will represent the self-governing Colonies at the Colonial Conference are as follows:—Dominion of Canada, Sir Wilfrid Laurier; Newfoundland, Sir R. Bond; Commonwealth of Australia, Mr. Deakin; New Zealand, Sir J. G. Ward; Cape Colony, Mr. L. S. Jameson; Natal, Mr. F. R. Moor. Other Ministers expected to be present in this country in connection with the Conference are: From Canada, Mr. W. S. Fielding, Minister of Finance; Mr. W. Patterson, Minister of Customs; Sir F. W. Borden, Minister of Militia and Defence; Mr. L. P. Brodeur, Minister of Marine. From Australia, Sir W. Lyne, Minister of Customs, and from Cape Colony, Dr. Smartt, Commissioner of Works. Papers on the subject of the agenda for the Conference will be laid before the House during the present week. The Colonial representatives present for the Colonial Conference will be guests of the nation. It is too early as yet to state the precise date of the commencement and termination of their official visit; the Conference will open on the 15th April.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth): Can the hon. Gentleman say if, and how, India will be represented at the Conference?

MR. CHURCHILL: India will be represented by the Secretary of State for India, or by some one deputed by him.

Mr. Bryce's Salary.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what is the salary of His Majesty's newly-appointed Ambassador to the United States of America, and on what date it commenced to run; and if any installation allowance has been paid to him.

MR. RUNCIMAN: The salary of His Majesty's Ambassador at Washington will in future be fixed at £10,000 a year, and the new Ambassador's salary commenced to run, in accordance with the usual rule, ten days before his departure for his post; *i.e.*, on February 3rd. The usual outfit allowance of £2,000 has been issued.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: May I ask if this increase of £2,200 a year is one of the measures of economy of the present Government?

[No Answer was returned.]

Great Britain and Persia.

MR. LYNCH (Yorkshire, W.R. Ripon): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can inform the House as to the nature of the demands made by the Persian National Assembly to the new Persian monarch; whether these demands have been accepted by the Persian Government; and whether, in view of the present condition of affairs in Persia, any steps are being taken by His Majesty's Government to promote greater stability in the Government of Persia and to safeguard the lives and property of British subjects in that country.

MR. RUNCIMAN: According to the reports which have been received, the Persian National Assembly demanded a formal recognition that the monarchy is limited, and that Ministers are responsible to the Chamber. These demands have, it is understood, been accepted. His Majesty's Government desire to abstain from any interference in the internal affairs of Persia, and any action on their part would be limited to such measures as it might be in their power to take to safeguard the lives and property of British subjects, should these be in danger. No particular danger is, however, anticipated for European subjects or agents, and His Majesty's Government do not consider that any unusual steps are desirable at present. The best prospect of averting any interference with foreigners is to make it clear to the Persians that we do not intend to interfere in their internal affairs.

Estate Duties.

MR. RADFORD: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact that, in the case of persons dying between the 31st July, 1894 ,and the 1st July, 1898, settlement estate duty paid in respect of a contingency which has not arisen and cannot arise is not repayable; and whether he will consider the advisability of so amending the law as to make such settlement estate duty repayable, as it is in the case of persons dying after the 1st July, 1898.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (MR. ASQUITH, Fife, E.): The law is as stated in the first part of the Question. An Amendment of it in the sense desired by my hon. friend would be attended now by considerable practical difficulties in ascertaining the persons entitled to returnable duty and in other ways.

Cabling of Ministerial Speeches to South Africa.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that a speech of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies of 18th December, 1906, imputing grave misconduct and corruption to a public body in the Transvaal, was cabled at the public cost to Johannesburg; by whose directions was this course taken; what are the expenses incurred thereby; and whether he will in the future discountenance the official dissemination during the conduct of a

Colonial election of controversial literature at the public cost.

Mr. ASQUITH: I have no direct responsibility in this matter, but I am informed that the Answer to the first part of the right hon. Gentleman's Question is in the affirmative. The course taken was under the authority of the Secretary of State for the Colonies The expense of the telegram amounted to £21 5s. It was not sent during a Colonial election, nor with any view to influencing the course of such election. The telegram was despatched on 18th December. The new Constitution for the Transvaal did not come into force until 12th January, 1907, and the nominations for the elections did not take place till 9th February. The purpose for which the telegram was sent was to secure the full and accurate publication of words used in this House, instead of the condensations which are necessary in private Press telegrams. Such a practice has been found convenient and even advantageous on various occasions during the last year, and the Secretary of State is of opinion that it is quite possible that further need for its adoption might recur.

Income Tax.

Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state if ten days notices for the payment of income tax have been issued in London, or in any other town in England, similar to those which have been issued in Scotland; and whether notices threatening legal proceedings if payment is not now made, have been issued in England or in Scotland.

I beg also to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he can state if notices have been issued in Scotland stating that unless income tax is paid within seven days the matter will be placed in the hands of the sheriff-officer, who will be instructed to recover the amount with costs.

Mr. ASQUITH: The issue of ten day notices in both England and Scotland commenced on 22nd January. Notices threatening distraint, if payment be not made within seven days, are now in course of issue in both countries. I should add that I am making careful inquiry into the practice which prevails in the two countries, with the object of securing equality of treatment to the taxpayers in both.

Mr. C. E. PRICE (Edinburgh, Central): Has the right hon. Gentleman considered the question of the date of the issue of the first notice?

Mr. ASQUITH: I have not come to any decision yet. I desire there shall be complete equality between the two countries.

Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): Will the right hon. Gentleman consider whether the collection of income tax might not be facilitated if it were collected half-yearly or even quarterly?

Mr. ASQUITH asked for notice.

Alleged Whisky Fraud.

Mr. LEA: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that a discovery of smuggling on a large scale has been made at Tullamore, and that in consequence large quantities of illicitly obtained spirits have been sold throughout London and the provinces which have not paid duty to the Exchequer; whether the parties concerned have been merely fined by the Inland Revenue authorities without publicity and not brought to trial; what was the amount of the fine; what was the nature of the offence committed; and if this procedure is to be taken as a precedent when smuggling on a sufficiently large scale again takes place in this country.

Mr. ASQUITH: The Board of Inland Revenue are in possession of evidence that suggests irregularities on a somewhat extensive scale in connection with dealings in spirits at Tullamore. Proceedings have in consequence been instituted and the whole matter will be investigated in a Court of Law. Meanwhile discussion of the subject cannot properly be admitted.

Revenue from Food and Drink Taxes.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state what was the total amount of revenue received during 1906 from taxes, both excise and customs, on food and drink.

MR. ASQUITH: The total for the calendar year 1906, amounted to £49,475,875.

Provident Societies Registration Fee.

LORD R. CECIL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether a fee for registering Provident Societies has recently been instituted, and, if so, for what reason; and whether, in view of the hindrance that is being thereby caused to the formation of small societies founded to promote valuable rural industries, the Government can see their way to modifying the recent regulations on the subject.

MR. RUNCIMAN: If by "Provident" Society is meant a Friendly Society registered under the Friendly Societies Act, 1896, the answer is that no fee is payable to the Exchequer. If a Co-operative Society is meant, the answer is that a fee (£5) is now payable on registry. This fee was instituted in order to discourage the registry of societies whose financial position was weak or unsound. As the Chief Registrar has power to modify the fee and an appeal, is in certain cases, allowed to the Treasury, no hardship to any *bona-fide* small society is likely to be caused. The Regulation in question met with the entire approval of the Co-operative Union, Limited, the Labour Co-partnership Association, the Agricultural Organisation Societies, and all recognised bodies registered under the Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

LORD R. CECIL: Can the hon. Gentleman say when the regulation was made and to what extent the Registrar is entitled to modify the fee ?

MR. RUNCIMAN: I cannot give the exact date. If an appeal is made to the Treasury every case is dealt with on its merits. If the noble Lord has any particular case he wishes to bring before me I will consider it at once.

Inspection of Laundries.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he intends to introduce a Bill during the present session dealing with the inspection of laundries in connection with religious institutions.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): Yes, Sir.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Will it be introduced at a period of the session when it will have a chance of passing ?

MR. GLADSTONE: Certainly, Sir.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman indicate the date ?

MR. GLADSTONE: No, Sir.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: I shall repeat the question next week.

Clubs.

MR. RAPHAEL (Derbyshire, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will grant a Return of the number of clubs selling alcoholic liquor registered in each petty sessional division in England and Wales, stating the number of such clubs registered since 1st January, 1905, and the number of such clubs which are owned by individuals and by the members collectively.

MR. GLADSTONE: The number of clubs selling alcoholic liquor registered in each petty sessional division and borough in England and Wales is given in the volume of "Licensing Statistics," which is now published annually. The total number registered on the 1st January, 1905 was 6,554. The statistics for 1906 are in course of preparation. I have no information showing how many of these clubs are proprietary clubs and how many are owned by the members, and there is no power to require such information to be furnished. It is doubtful whether such a requirement, if enacted, could be properly enforced, but that is a point I will consider.

New Assistant Factory Inspectors.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has now appointed the four additional inspectors promised on the 1st August last for special work in connection with dock inspection; what are their headquarters and districts; and what are their qualifications and experience.

MR. GLADSTONE: In accordance with the promise to which the hon. Member refers, four Inspectors' Assistants have been added to the staff of the Factory Department. This has enabled me to strengthen the inspection at London, Liverpool, Manchester and Newcastle by an additional assistant at each place, and each of these four men will, under the new scheme of duties for Inspectors' Assistants, be an assistant of the Higher Grade, and will be required to give special attention to the work of dock inspection. In Glasgow and nine other districts there will also, under the new arrangements, be assistants of the Higher Grade who will be available for dock inspection. All these assistants have had from seven to fourteen years experience in the actual work of inspection, and have been chosen, on account of their capability and experience, for inclusion in the new Higher Grade.

Duties of Assistant Factory Inspectors.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can lay Papers upon the Table containing a statement of the new and more important duties for assistant factory inspectors which he foreshadowed in answer to a Question on the 28th November last; † and whether he can now state if those duties include that of inspection of factories.

MR. GLADSTONE: There are no Papers which I can lay upon the Table, but I can state, in a few words, the effect of the new arrangements which have now been approved by me. All Inspectors' Assistants of the Higher Grade will, in addition to their ordinary work of inspecting workshops, be employed on certain more responsible duties which include the inspection of factories for certain purposes, the inspection of docks and the enforcement there of the Home Office regulations, the inspection of outwork with reference especially to the requirement of particulars of work and wages, and other matters. It is not proposed at present to utilise these Assistants in connection with the safeguarding of machinery, mechanical ventilation, and other matters requiring special qualifications; but otherwise they will, acting under the directions of the District and Superintending Inspectors, be called upon to perform such duties as can be most usefully assigned to them, having regard to the particular circumstances of the districts to which they are severally alloted. For example, in the cotton districts, the Assistants will be required to give special attention to time-cribbing; in districts with large docks to the enforcement of the dock regulations, and so on. The arrangements are, of course, provisional, and experience of their working will no doubt suggest developments.

The Imprisoned Suffragists.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he can say why certain of the woman-suffragists, tried on Thursday the 14th instant by Mr. Curtis Bennett, were placed in the first, and certain others in the second, division, in view of the fact that all were convicted of similar offences.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have communicated with the magistrate and he tells me that he carefully considered each case on its merits before exercising the discretion given him by the law, to decide whether the prisoner should be in the first, second or third division. None of those placed in the second division will be liable to more than one week's imprisonment in default of paying their fines.

Poor Prisoners' Defence.

MR. PICKERSGILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the observations of different Judges and chairmen of quarter sessions, to the effect that the intention of the Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, 1903, is very largely defeated by the provision that the certificate for legal aid can be given only when the prisoner discloses some sort of defence or another before the committing justices, whereas the great majority of prisoners are entirely ignorant of this provision; and whether he will introduce a Bill to amend the Act in the respect indicated, or, in the alternative, would favourably consider such a Bill if introduced by a private Member.

---

† See (4) *Debates,* clxvi., 51.

*Mr. GLADSTONE: My attention has not been drawn to any observations of this nature. It was not the intention of the Act that legal aid should be given to prisoners who refused to disclose their defence. The Lord Chief Justice in a charge delivered to the Grand Jury at Warwick on July 1904 stated that "by a defence disclosed was meant not only a defence stated by the prisoner at the end of the hearing, but a defence disclosed on cross-examination or by questions the prisoner might ask or by remarks he interposed, or even in some cases such as might appear on the face of the evidence called for the prosecution." A circular was issued to all benches of justices in England and Wales calling their attention to these remarks of the Lord Chief Justice. Steps have been taken by the Home Office to bring the provisions of the Act to the knowledge of all prisoners. Notices explaining in simple language the effect of the Act, and the requirement that a defence must be disclosed before justices, have been affixed in all prison cells in which prisoners are detained on remand, and have been distributed to justices for exhibition at police courts and in police court cells. In the circumstances, I do not think there is any need for amending legislation.

Assisted Emigration.

Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he is aware that the normal increase in the population of England and Wales, through excess of births over deaths, is more than 400,000 a year; whether he is aware that there is a large demand for British workmen and workwomen in Canada, and a growing demand in Australia; and whether he will consider the desirability of making such legislative or administrative changes as may be necessary to enable boards of guardians and distress committees to apply a larger portion of the funds under their control to assisting suitable men, women and children to emigrate from this congested island to the sparsely-peopled continents included within the Empire.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): I am aware of the facts mentioned in the Question. I fully realise the importance of the subject to which my hon. friend refers; and am ready to consider any suggestions with regard to it. I may point out that boards of guardians and distress committees have by no means exhausted their existing resources in this matter, and I do not at present contemplate any legislative changes in the direction indicated.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Is it correct to say, according to the Question, that this is a "congested island"?

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.): In dealing with this Question will the right hon. Gentleman have regard to the declared policy of the Prime Minister to colonise our own country?

[No Answer was returned.]

*Mr. REES: Will the right hon. Gentleman in considering the schemes give attention to the report on the Mrs. Close's Emigration scheme which is said to have been so successful?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I cannot promise particular attention to any particular scheme, but I will consider them all on their merits.

The Local Government Board.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether the Board has ever met; and, if so, whether he will state the date of the last meeting.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: No, Sir. I understand that there has never been a meeting of the Local Government Board.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY: Would the right hon. Gentleman have any objection to say of whom or of what the Local Government Board consists?

Mr. JOHN BURNS: It consists of the President, the Lord President of the

Council, the five principal Secretaries of State, the Lord Privy Seal, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

MR. BOTTOMLEY: Will the right hon. Gentlemen take into consideration the expediency of at once convening a meeting of his Board?

MR. JOHN BURNS: Not if I can possibly avoid it.

Report of Poor Law Commission.

MR. MACKARNESS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in view of the interest felt in the question of an Old-Age Pensions Bill and the close connection of that question with the matters under investigation by the Poor Law Commissioners, it is possible to accelerate the Report of that Commission.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have made inquiry on this subject, and I find that, except for brief periods of vacation, the Royal Commission have been sitting week by week since the beginning of last year and are using every effort to expedite their investigation; but I understand that, in view of the wide scope of the reference to them, they have still a considerable amount of ground to cover. They are anxious that their Report should be made without any unnecessary delay, but they are equally anxious to secure that it should not be either incomplete or inadequate.

Liability of Married Women under the Poor Law.

MR. HAY MORGAN (Cornwall, Truro): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to the decision of the Court of King's Bench in the case of the "Pontypool Union *v.* Buck," to the effect that a married woman with ample separate estate is not liable to contribute towards the maintenance of her parents; and whether, in view of the fact that a son is so liable, he proposes to introduce legislation with a view of removing this distinction between the sexes by which an unfair burden is cast upon the ratepayers.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am aware of the decision referred to by my hon. friend. I have taken note of the point, but I cannot promise to introduce legislation on the subject at the present time.

The Elliot Junction Railway Accident.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrew, E.): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate when George Gourlay, the driver of the ill-fated train at Elliot Junction on 28th December, is to be brought to trial.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs): On the 11th March next.

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate if he is aware that practically all the so-called foreign trawlers engaged in breaking Scottish laws by illegally trawling in the Moray Firth are British-owned; and if he will consider what action it is desirable to take to ensure adequate punishment of the offenders.

MR. THOMAS SHAW: It is the case that at least many of these trawlers, although registered under a foreign flag, are British-owned. The remainder of the Question will be answered by my right hon. friend the Secretary for Scotland, along with certain other Questions on the same subject.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Is it not the fact that, although the captain is a Norwegian, many of the men engaged on the boats are British subjects? Cannot the law be put in operation against them?

MR. THOMAS SHAW: As a question of law I believe such men would be legally liable to prosecution.

Release of Masters of Grimsby Trawlers.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state the reasons why orders have been given for the release of the masters of the Grimsby steam trawlers sailing under the Norwegian flag, who were convicted before the sheriff at Elgin on 31st January, and sentenced to sixty days imprisonment each, failing payment of fines for trawling within the limits forbidden under the Scottish Fishery Board bye-laws and the Fisheries Acts.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): As has already been stated publicly, the men referred to by the hon. Member were foreign subjects, and their release was ordered in consequence of a representation from the Foreign Secretary at the instance of the Norwegian Minister.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware that on 31st January 1907, before the sheriff at Elgin, Hans Christian Andersen, master of the Norwegian trawler "King Eric," Andreas Martinius Andersen, master of the Norwegian trawler "Plover,' and Abraham Osmundso Gjerde, master of the Norwegian trawler "Stromo," were found guilty of trawling within the limits forbidden by the Scottish Fishery Board by-laws and the Fisheries Acts, and that they were sentenced to sixty days imprisonment, failing payment of fines of £100 each; whether he is aware that, having failed to pay these fines they were imprisoned in Inverness prison, and that, without having paid these fines, they were released from prison on 9th February, when fifty-one days of their sentence were still unexpired; whether they were released by order of the Secretary for Scotland; and what steps the Government purpose to take to enforce the law for the protection of the baiting and fishing grounds on the east coast of Scotland, and to penalise offences by foreigners against it, which jeopardise the calling and means of livelihood of Scottish line fishermen.

Notice of the following Questions had also been given—

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland, if he will state whether the masters of trawlers sailing under the Norwegian flag, who were recently imprisoned in Inverness gaol for failing to pay the fines imposed on their conviction for illegal trawling in the Moray Firth, have been released on representations made by the Norwegian Consul or other representative of the Norwegian Government; and will he state whether the Government now propose to give foreign trawlers free access to fish in the Moray Firth outside the three-mile limit, nothwithstanding the decision of the High Court of Justiciary, the losses which such trawling occasions the line fisherman, and injury to the fishing grounds in the Firth.

MR. WILLIAMSON (Elgin and Nairn): To ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been called to the number of trawlers illegally trawling in the Moray Firth; and what steps he intends to take by legislation or otherwise to prevent this.

MR. SINCLAIR: I would propose to answer along with this Question the Question addressed by my hon. friend the Member for Orkney and Shetland to the Lord-Advocate, the Questions addressed by my hon. friend the Member for Ross-shire so far as they relate to this matter, and the Question of my hon. friend the Member for Elgin and Nairn. The facts stated are correct. The matter referred to has been under my consideration. It is my intention to introduce a Bill to apply to the rest of the United Kingdom the prohibition now existing in Scotland against landing or selling trawled fish.

MR. CATHCART WASON: Is it intended to prosecute British subjects on these vessels for breaking the law?

MR. SINCLAIR: That will be done.

Scottish Police Grant.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that the grant for police pay and clothing to counties and boroughs in Scotland, which provided 45·3 per cent. of the total cost in 1900, now only provides 39·5 per cent.; whether the corresponding grant in England is 50 per cent. of the cost; will he explain why the grant in England increases with the number of men employed, whereas it is stationary in Scotland; and what steps he proposes to take to remedy this inequality of treatment of Scottish ratepayers.

MR. SINCLAIR: My attention has been called to this matter; the progressive reduction in the rate per cent. of the Government contribution to the cost of the pay and clothing of the police arises from the fact that while England and Scotland are treated with equality in the apportionment of the total sums assigned for local purposes to the two countries respectively, there are differences in the method of allocation of these sums. In the case of Scotland the total amount to be distributed in aid of the cost of pay and clothing of police is fixed at £180,000 per annum, and the rate per £ of expenditure which this grant can pay must go down as the aggregate police expenditure rises; the balance available in general relief of rates is not affected. In the case of England, the statutes direct a grant of 10s. per £ to be paid towards police expenditure, but this necessarily involves that as police expenditure goes up there is a smaller residue available for other local services.

The Chairman of Scottish Prison Commissioners.

Mr. WATT (Glasgow College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will give the reasons for the extension of the appointment of the chairman of the Prison Commissioners for two years beyond the age limit.

Mr. SINCLAIR: On a full examination of the condition of the prisons service I was satisfied that this is a case to which the provisions of the Treasury Minute of 26th July, 1906, dealing with prolongation of service, peculiarly applied.

Penalties under the Fishery Acts.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, if he will introduce, at an early date, a Bill arranging for penalties recovered for breaches of fishery statutes to be placed at the disposal of the Scottish Fishery Board.

Mr. SINCLAIR: The Answer is in the affirmative.

Foreign Trawlers in the Moray Firth.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, if he will state why Scottish Fishery Board cruisers have recently failed to arrest foreign trawlers which they have observed to be trawling in the Moray Firth.

I beg also to ask the Secretary for Scotland, in view of the fact that the failure on the part of the Scottish Fishery Board cruisers to arrest foreign trawlers observed working in the Moray Firth, enables such trawlers to trawl until sufficient fish have been caught to pay any fine which may subsequently be imposed, will he consider the expediency of giving instructions for the gear of such trawlers to be seized immediately they are detected working in the Firth.

Mr. SINCLAIR: In reply to these Questions I have to inform the hon. Member that the point submitted has been carefully considered. In omitting to arrest foreign trawlers detected trawling in the Moray Firth or to seize the gear the Fishery Board cruisers have acted under instructions advisedly given. Every detection has been reported to the authorities and in many instances prosecution has followed.

Scottish Education Bill.

Mr. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he intends to introduce this session any legislation dealing with education in Scotland.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Yes, Sir, but not of a comprehensive character.

Irish Land Commission Clerks.

Mr. T. W. RUSSELL (Tyrone, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether Mr. W. F. Wilkinson has, since his appointment as clerk in the office of the Irish Land Commission, acted as land agent to a Mr. Kirkpatrick, in county Dublin, and has signed legal documents dated from the office of the Public Trustee in that capacity; and if he proposes to take any steps to prevent a State official filling these combined offices.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.): I am informed by the Land Commission that since Mr. Wilkinson was appointed to their service he has not acted in any way as land agent to Mr. Kirkpatrick. Some misapprehension appears to have arisen from the fact that one of Mr. Kirkpatrick's tenants served a legal notice on Mr. Wilkinson in mistake for his brother, who is in Mr. Kirkpatrick's employment. Mr. Wilkinson at once took steps to have his name eliminated from the proceedings.

Land Sales in County Clare.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of sales of land under the Land Act of 1903 in county Clare up to date, giving the amount of purchase money and the number of estates and tenants involved.

MR. BIRRELL: Up to the 9th instant, the Estates Commissioners had received applications for advances from 2,026 tenant purchasers in county Clare, the number of estates concerned being 100, and the total purchase money, £597,779. Of these cases, sales had been completed to 425 purchasers on thirty estates, the purchase money being £110,583.

Instruction in the Irish Language.

MR. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in districts where the Irish language is regularly spoken, managers of schools will be permitted to substitute in the programme the teaching of Irish for any other subject that they may consider unsuitable to the district concerned.

MR. BIRRELL: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that, under their rules, the bilingual programme may be adopted in schools in which the majority of the pupils speak Irish as their home language, provided that the teacher can speak Irish fluently, and that instruction through the medium of English is given to any exclusively English-speaking pupils whose parents so desire. Irish may also be taught as an ordinary subject in other schools, but not so as to interfere with proper instruction in the school curriculum generally.

Upkeep of Irish National Schools.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps, if any, he intends to take in the matter of the proper heating and general upkeep of the national schools of Ireland; and whether, seeing that the responsibility for such general repairs, heating, etc., at present falls on the teacher, he will consider the advisability of allocating a certain grant for the purposes named, viz., the heating and keeping in proper repair of the national schools of Ireland.

MR. BIRRELL: The obligation to provide for the general upkeep of national schools in Ireland rests, as regards vested schools, upon the Commissioners of National Education or the local trustees as the case may be, and, as regards non-vested schools, upon the patron or manager. The question of the heating of national schools, as well as the whole subject of the construction and maintenance of such schools, is at present engaging my serious attention.

Irish Land Commissioners.

MR. T. W. RUSSELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what number of temporary Commissioners are now on the staff of the Irish Land Commission; how many warrants expire on the 31st of March next; and if he proposes, in view of promises made by his predecessor, to take any steps to inquire into the qualifications of those now engaged in fixing fair rents and inspection work for land purchase.

MR. BIRRELL: There are twenty-seven temporary lay assistant Commissioners now on the staff of the Land Commission, all of whose warrants will expire on 31st March next. In view of the statement made by my predecessor on 18th December†, I intend shortly to consider the whole subject of the appointment of these Commissioners.

Irish Board of Education.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the difference between the Treasury and the Board of National Education in Ireland, in reference to the new plans for schools, has yet been settled.

MR. RUNCIMAN: Communications are still going on between the Treasury and the Irish Government on this subject.

MR. DILLON: Is the hon. Gentleman aware that this controversy has lasted ten years and that meanwhile numbers of Irish schools are falling into ruin?

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1288.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I know it has been going on a long time. I am entirely new to it. The negotiations are now proceeding with rapidity.

MR. DILLON: I have received exactly the same Answer from four or five of the hon. Gentlemen's predecessors.

House of Lords Accommodation.

MR. HAROLD COX: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the inadequate accommodation that the House of Peers affords for the important State ceremonial of the opening of Parliament by the King in person and to the inconvenience and disorder that result from the practice of summoning this House to attend in the House of Peers; and whether he will consider the desirability of employing on future occasions Westminster Hall for this ceremonial and of there providing for the occasion such seating accommodation as will enable the Members of both Houses of Parliament to assemble in an orderly manner to await the arrival of His Majesty.

MR. ASQUITH (for Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN): No, Sir, my attention has not been called to this matter and I see no reason at present for considering the suggestion of my hon. friend. The whole question was thoroughly investigated in 1901 by a Joint Committee of the two Houses, and they expressed the unanimous opinion that a fair trial should be given to the new arrangements recommended by them. Of course, if experience should show that any serious inconvenience still arises we might have to reconsider the question.

The Agricultural Holdings Act.

*MR. MONTAGU (Cambridgeshire, Chesterton): May I ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the assurances given last session by the hon. Member for South Somerset on behalf of the Government in answer to protests against the postponement of the date of operation of the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906; whether he has observed the reports of the conduct of Lord Egerton of Tatton and other landowners regarding their agreements with their tenants; whether, seeing that it was anticipation of such conduct that led to protests against the suspension of the Act, he will, with the assistance of the President of the Board of Agriculture, inquire into the matter; and whether, if it be found that landowners are acting so as to prevent their tenants benefiting from the Act, the Government will take steps to bring the Act into force on 1st January, 1908.

Notice had also been given of the following Questions:—

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford): To ask the Prime Minister whether his attention has been called to the fact that certain landlords are taking steps to evade the Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906; and whether he will cause the matter to be inquired into, and, if necessary, take immediate action to prevent the will of Parliament being overridden.

MR. FULLERTON (Cumberland, Egremont): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether his attention has been drawn to the action of Earl Egerton in giving notice to quit to the tenant farmers on his Knutsford estate, such notice expiring in June next; and whether the Government will take action to prevent Earl Egerton, or other landowners, from defeating the objects of a measure which the Government intended should benefit tenant farmers.

MR. ASQUITH: With regard to the notice given by Lord Egerton to his tenants, my noble friend the President of the Board of Agriculture is in communication with his Lordship with a view, if possible, to obtain information as to the precise object with which the notices have been given and the nature of the new agreements into which the tenants are to be asked to enter. We hope it will be found that the intention is merely to enter into fresh agreements which shall be more in accordance with the law as it now stands. With regard to the question which stands in the name of my hon. friend the Member for the Dartford Division, I would say that my noble friend is watching the operation of the Act very closely; and if it should appear, which I can scarcely believe will be the case, that the intentions of Parliament are being evaded, we shall not hesitate to take prompt action in the matter.

THE DEBATE ON THE ADDRESS.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer, in reference to the Motion for the suspension of the 11 o'clock rule, which was down in the name of the Prime Minister, whose absence from illness they all regretted, whether he proposed to sit late that night if that Motion were assented to by the House.

MR. ASQUITH replied that they hoped they might bring the debate on the particular Amendment which the noble Lord opposite was going to propose to a conclusion that night, but he trusted it would not be necessary to sit at all late for the purpose.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR said it was impossible for him to forecast the progress of the debate, as he did not know how many Gentlemen desired to take part in it, but he would remind the right hon. Gentleman that there had been no case, so far as he knew, in which, the House meeting on the Tuesday, the Address had been concluded before the Thursday week following. In almost every case it had gone over to the Friday, and in some cases it had entered into the third week.

MR. ASQUITH said that last year they concluded the debate in a single week. The right hon. Gentleman was not present at that time. Easter came very early this year, and it was hoped by the Government to bring the debate to a conclusion on the following night.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR thought the right hon. Gentleman would agree that last year was a very exceptional one—exceptional, he meant, from the fact that hon. Gentlemen were then in the full flush of a triumph which had somewhat lost its charm. In 1905 the debate lasted for over a fortnight, in 1904 nearly three weeks, in 1903 up to the Thursday week, in 1902 it went into the third week, and in 1901 and 1900 it lasted up to the Friday.

MR. ASQUITH said he preferred the precedent of 1906. He would have thought that hon. Members who had just come from their constituents would be more anxious to flesh their swords than those who sat in a somewhat jaded Parliament.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) was understood to inquire if the Government had realised that their proposal would prevent a debate on the unemployed.

MR. ASQUITH: The whole subject has been most carefully considered.

SIR H. COTTON pointed out that the closing of the debate on Tuesday night would shut out all discussion on India. For some years there had been an Amendment to the Address on Indian Questions, and if they had none this year it would form a bad precedent and create considerable irritation among our Indian fellow subjects.

MR. ASQUITH said that no Member of the Government underrated the importance of Indian subjects. He had, however, expressed the desire and the hope of the Government that the debate might be brought to a close on the following night, but if—and in this respect they were very anxious to meet the views of hon. Gentlemen opposite—that should be found to be impossible they would agree to prolong it up to Wednesday. Beyond Wednesday they could not possibly go; the financial exigencies of the year would not allow them to do so.

NEW MEMBER SWORN.

Sir ROBERT PULLAR, knight, for the Parliamentary Burgh of Perth.

NEW BILLS.

JURORS (EXPENSES) BILL.

"To provide for the payment of the Expenses of Jurors attending assizes and quarter sessions in England and Wales," presented by Mr. Lloyd Morgan; supported by Mr. Abel Thomas, Mr. Hay Morgan, Mr. Mackarness, and Mr. Bertram; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 44.]

CORPORAL PUNISHMENT (RESTRICTION) BILL.

"To restrict the Punishment of Whipping to the cases of male offenders under the age of sixteen years," presented by Mr. Lloyd Morgan; supported by Mr.

Abel Thomas, Mr. Eugene Wason, Mr. Trevelyan, and Mr. Hay Morgan; to be read a second time upon Friday, 3rd May, and to be printed. [Bill 45.]

FISHERIES (IRELAND) BILL.

"To amend the Laws relating to Fisheries in Ireland and the Boards of Conservators thereof," presented by Mr. Mooney; supported by Mr. Joyce, Mr. Boland, Mr. Flavin, Mr. Gwynn, Mr. Hayden, Mr. William Redmond, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Halpin, Mr. O'Shee, Mr. Lundon, Mr. O'Dowd and Mr. Field; to be read a second time upon Friday, 22nd March, and to be printed. [Bill 46.]

ABSENT VOTERS BILL.

"To facilitate the recording of Votes at Parliamentary Elections by fishermen, sailors, and other persons liable to habitual absence from their usual residence in pursuit of their calling," presented by Mr. Williamson; supported by Mr. M'Crae, Sir Robert Ropner, Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Havelock Wilson, Mr. Rainy, and Mr. Crombie; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 2nd April, and to be printed. [Bill 47.]

FOREIGN TRAWLERS REGULATION BILL.

"To provide for the better prevention of fishing by Foreign Trawl Vessels within areas closed to British Trawl Vessels," presented by Mr. Williamson; supported by Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Watson Rutherford, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Eugene Wason, Major Anstruther-Gray, Sir Thomas Glen Coats, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Owen Philipps, and Mr. Cathcart Wason; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 48.]

SALE OF WHISKY BILL.

"To amend the law relating to the Sale of Whisky, and to provide for the marking of casks and other vessels containing whisky," presented by Mr. Williamson; supported by Mr Murray, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Sir Andrew Torrance, and Mr. Billson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 49.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (KING'S SPEECH) (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the King's Speech (Motion for an Address), if under discussion at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Orders (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer*.)

The House divided; Ayes, 281, Noes, 82. (Division List, No. 3.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W
Brace, William
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, Rt Hn. Sir J. T. (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L

Gladstone, Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B.(Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hyde, Clarendon
Jackson, R, S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J.R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N.(Doncast'r
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Malley, William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J,
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.(Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L.(Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cavendish, Rt.Hon. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R.(Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain,Rt.HnJ.A.(Worc.
Corbett, A. Cameron(Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland,Sir FredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, SirW.Evans-(T'r Ham.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H.B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F.W.F.(Bury SEdm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Kenyon-Slaney,Rt.Hon.Col.W.
Keswick, William
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee,Arthur H.(Hants.,Fareham
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood,Rt. Hn.Lt.-Col.A.R.
Long,Rt.Hn.Walter (Dublin,S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Middlemore,John Throgmorton
Moore, William
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts,S.(Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. LionelWalter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Stanley,Hon Arthur(Ormskirk)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent., Mid)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question (12th February), "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth:—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign*,

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

*EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.) rose to move the following Amendment:—"But humbly regrets that the social legislation declared by your Majesty's Government to be urgent should be postponed for the purpose of effecting revolutionary changes in the powers exercised by Parliament over the affairs of the United Kingdom and in the constitutional relation between the two Houses." He said: The Amendment which stands in my name invites attention to an aspect of the Gracious Speech from the Throne which has already been alluded to by the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition and from which he drew an instructive contrast between the action when in power of those who occupy the benches opposite and those who sit on this side of the House. Hon. Gentlemen opposite are very fond of denouncing us as the defenders of class privileges, while they claim for themselves a monopoly of interest in and of the advocacy of social reform. But from the moment they obtain that control of the helm, which enables them to steer their course towards the goal of their avowed ambition, their interest in social reform immediately gives place to a desperate anxiety to overhaul and reconstruct the machinery of the vessel. No one will deny that that is an accurate description of the last Liberal Government, which held office from 1892 to 1895, and which will be remembered in history as a Parliament of unpopular aspirations and futile achievements. It succeeded in passing a Parish Councils Bill, which, we were confidently assured, was to keep the people on the land by giving them a greater interest in local affairs, but which, after ten years experience, does not seem to have effected anything in that direction; it failed to pass an Employers Liability Bill, for which by common admission the Unionist Party has since provided a much better substitute; and it devoted two out of three sessions to an attempt to destroy the Constitution and the Church, with the only result that it afforded the House of Lords an opportunity of showing how much more representative they were of the people of the country than the Liberal Party, which professed to speak in their name. And now we have a new Liberal Administration; we have, we are told, for the first time a thoroughly democratic Parliament, intensely eager, and burning with anxiety to devote itself to all those social problems which have been too long neglected or postponed. What is the result of all this fuss and swagger? We have had one session mainly devoted to attempts, happily frustrated, to deprive grown-up people of their votes, and children of the religious education which their parents desire them to have. No one I think would include either of those measures in the category of social reforms, nor should I be inclined to include in that category the Trade Disputes Act, which, according to the latest version of its own authors, gave to organised labour no privilege which they had not long enjoyed, and which, according to the earlier version of its authors, took away from unorganised labour the fundamental birthright of Englishmen—viz., equality before the law. So far the Government have but one measure of social reform to their credit, the Workman's Compensation Act, which is merely an extended application of principles already embodied in legislation by their predecessors. This week we start on a new session which, to judge from the King's Speech, so far as social reform is concerned, is likely to be even more barren than the last. I will deal with its contents in a moment, but first let me say a word as to its omissions. There is the question already alluded to by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, viz., that of the unemployed. When Ministers are not engaged in an elaborate panegyric on our existing fiscal system, they always tell us there is no problem more urgent than the increasing number of the unemployed. We were informed that the Bill introduced by the right hon. Member for South Dublin was extremely inadequate, and that it required to be supplemented and extended in various directions. The President of the Local Government Board has made several speeches hinting or promising that steps were to be taken to deal with the question, but there is no mention of the unemployed in the King's Speech. According to the flamboyant election address of the President of the Local Government Board, the right hon. Gentleman had discovered in a legal eight hours day a means of securing "work for all, over-work for none, of reducing the rates, and giving permanent employment where demoralising casual labour now prevails." Well, the Government which has in its power to bestow this great benefit upon the working classes has placed a measure for the regulation of the hours of labour in its programme, but I find with great astonishment that the boon is to be confined to the mining industry. Then there is a question on which there was a general consensus of opinion in favour of fresh legislation. I refer to the provision of medical inspection in elementary schools. There was a clause making such provision in the Government Education Bill of last year, which was approved of by both sides in this House and in the House of Lords, and I am rather surprised that the Government has not embodied that provision in a Bill of their own instead of leaving it to the chances of a private Member's ballot. Again, there is the question of overcrowding, and especially of overcrowding in London. I do not for a moment suggest that that is a question which admits of a single solution; but there is one step which has been unanimously recommended by the Royal Commission, viz. the appointment of a Traffic Board. This is a matter of the greatest importance to the working classes. Why is there no reference to the intentions of the Government in the King's Speech? Have they not made up their minds on the question, or are they waiting to have their minds made up for them at the forthcoming County Council elections? Then there is a whole group of questions connected with Poor Law administration. The Postmaster-General, in his election address, stated that that law required overhauling, and those who have watched the enormous increase of poor law expenditure and studied the recent revelations in regard to the proceedings of certain boards of guardians will certainly share his opinion. We require greater strictness and uniformity in Poor Law administration, and a clear and definite policy laid down by Parliamentfor differentiating between the treatment of the deserving and undeserving poor. Why is there no mention of the subject in the speech? The President of the Local Government Board may say that a Royal Commission now sitting taking evidence on the subject, and that therefore it is premature for the Government to make any proposal in regard to it; but I think they are barred from using that plea. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has definitely pledged himself to the principle of old-age pensions, the merits of which cannot be discussed except in reference to Poor Law administration as a whole and has even hinted at making some beginning with it this session, although the Minister for War has declared that old-age pensions would have nothing but a pauperising effect. It is also remarkable that there is no mention in the King's Speech of a general reform in the system of rating. Considering how the late Government were denounced for passing the Agricultural Rates Act, and that it was said by the Liberals that it was unjust to the towns to deal with this question piecemeal; considering that they have allowed this Act to remain in force, and that the Government has foreshadowed measures dealing with the valuation of property and the graduation of taxation, which must have an important bearing on the question of the incidence of rates on real and personal property, one would have thought that they might have found room for a passing reference to the question of rating reform in the programme of the present session.

I pass now from the omissions in the King's Speech, and come to its contents. There are practically only two measures of social reform promised; one dealing with small holdings and the other with the housing of the working classes. [AN HON. MEMBER on the MINISTERIAL Benches: Licensing reform.] I do not propose to discuss licensing reform, for the Bill is not before us, and to judge from the speeches made in regard to it, it is more likely to be a measure for ruining the trader than for benefiting the consumer. Take the two questions of small holdings and housing of the working classes. No one who knows anything of the country or the slums in our great cities will deny that the problem of urban overcrowding and rural depopulation is one which, whether we regard it from the point of view of national health and morality or of national defence, demands the serious attention of this House, and that any Government which can contribute, however little, to its solution will have deserved well of the country. I think it will be admitted that the Party to which I have the honour to belong has some claim to show an interest in the matter. I do not say that for the purpose of making a Party score, for I admit that hon. Gentlemen opposite have not had the same opportunities for passing legislation of this kind as we have had, and they gave us their assistance. But every Conservative Administration which held office during the second half of last century left on the Statute-book some definite contribution to the solution of the problems I have referred to. Even the last Administration, with all its difficulties abroad and the complications of war, passed three measures, one enabling the working classes to become owners of their houses, another permitting local authorities to go outside their own areas for the acquisition of building land and a third extending the period for the repayment of loans. The Government propose to deal with urban overcrowding by tackling first the question of rural depopulation. In any attempt to put a thriving population on the soil they will have the heartiest sympathy of the Opposition, though I am not very sanguine of the success of their efforts. Any Government which wishes to solve the problem will frankly recognise that the root cause of the evil is the heavy burdens laid on the agricultural industry and the insecurity of its profits. I do not think that very much is to be expected from a Government whose policy is apparently further to increase the taxation upon land and to rivet upon the country a system of dual ownership which is fatal alike to the security of capital and the facility of transfer and sale. The important point is not whether the Government are likely to succeed, but what belief they show in the urgency of their proposals. They put these two measures at the bottom of their catalogue, in the paragraph of the King's Speech which as we know, from bitter experience, furnishes the majority of victims for the annual massacre of the innocents at the close of the session. I may be told that the order in which these measures are mentioned is no certain indication of the order in which they will be taken, but that is not a sufficient answer. Anyone who knows Parliamentary procedure, knows that to place acutely contentious measures in the same list with non-contentious measures is to expose all to equal destruction, and I believe that any Government which was really in earnest in their desire to solve the social problems which confront us, and which had its hands free as this Government has, would be willing to devote at least one session to the consideration of those problems, and to keep as far as they could all contentious measures outside their programme altogether. But what have the Government done? They actually include in their programme this year two measures, one dealing with Ireland and the other with the House of Lords, both of which they must be aware are sure to excite the keenest and most bitter political controversy. If they are in earnest in their statements with regard to these two measures they must know that they are beginning an agitation which will occupy the time of Parliament not for one session alone, but for many sessions. If they are not in earnest they plead guilty to having deliberately postponed legislation of a social character which they know to be urgent in favour of issues on behalf of which no such plea can be raised and of the solution of which they see no early or immediate prospect. I wish to do to His Majesty's Government the credit of assuming that they mean to take these two questions seriously, and I am encouraged to do so, because the Prime Minister devoted more than three-quarters of his speech to the question of Ireland and the question of the House of Lords.

I come first to the question of Ireland. What is the Irish policy of the Government? That is a direct simple question which ought to be capable of an equally direct and simple answer. We do not ask them to explain or to reveal the details of their measure, but we do ask them to say clearly and straightforwardly what is its intention, and what is its object. Hitherto we have failed to get the smallest information on this subject. The Chief Secretary for Ireland made a speech the other day in which he told us what we knew already, namely, that he and the Prime Minister were Home Rulers still and would not throw any difficulty in the way of Home Rule. We all know that he will not do any thing to make Home Rule more difficult, but will he do anything to make the achievement of it more easy? In other words is the Irish legislation contemplated a mere simplification of local administration, or is it to be a measure which will weaken in however small a degree the control of the Imperial Parliament over Irish administration, and place it in the power of hon. Members below the gangway to achieve their avowed object of destroying and repudiating that control altogether? That is a question to which I hope we shall have an answer. I do not wish on the present occasion to discuss what is called the policy of "instalments." It is sufficient for me to refer to the statement of Mr. Gladstone years ago that, whatever might be said in favour of the Repeal of the Union, there was nothing to be said in favour of the policy of giving concessions to Ireland which would not satisfy Irish opinion and would only be made the basis for fresh demands which the people of this country were unable or unwilling to grant. But I am not concerned so much with the merits of a policy. I am concerned with the good faith of Ministers. Minister after Minister at the last general election gave pledges of the most clear and explicit character on this subject. The usual form in which that pledge was given was expressed in language so identical as irresistibly to suggest the conclusion that it was the result of careful and collective deliberation. Perhaps I may quote one version. The Foreign Secretary, speaking at Belford, assured his hearers that votes given for free trade would not be used for the purpose of introducing Home Rule. The right hon. Gentleman said that he did not believe that if a Home Rule Bill were introduced it would pass the House of Commons, and if it did it would be rejected by the House of Lords. That pledge was very general in its character, and Ministers might say that although it debars them from introducing or voting for a measure of Home Rule themselves it does not debar them from introducing or supporting a measure which is intended to lead in the direction of Home Rule. But unfortunately for them one Minister either in a moment of forgetfulness or in a moment of confidence engendered by the belief that no reporters were present gave a pledge of a much more definite character. Let me quote the speech of the Secretary of State for War at Preston Pans on 12th January. He said—

> "They were inviting the support of many Unionist free traders, and it would be a breach of faith to use their votes for the purpose of setting up"—

not an Irish Parliament—but,

> "A system of which those Unionist free traders did not approve."

I should be very loth even to hint that public life has fallen so low that Ministers of the Crown can be capable of resorting to verbal subterfuge in order to place upon utterances of that kind an interpretation obviously different from that which they were calculated to convey to the minds of those who heard them. If the Government are open to such a suspicion they have only themselves to thank. If what they propose is only an extension of local administration, why all this mystery about it? Why gratuitously prejudice the prospects of co-operation between the two Parties by fostering and encouraging a suspicion which they might so easily remove? There is nobody who might more easily remove it than the Prime Minister, who has given rise to most of it. We all remember his speech at Stirling, in which he advised the Irish Nationalists to accept measures which would lead up to "the larger policy." Lord Rosebery at once described that as the "rehoisting of the Home Rule banner in its most pronounced form" and he declined to serve under it. Then the Foreign Minister, who said he was in the personal confidence of both statesmen, gave the assurance that the Prime Minister did not contemplate anything of which Lord Rosebery would not approve. How can we reconcile that statement with the speech made by the Prime Minister last week, in which he said explicitly that he looked forward to the time when the Irish people will have the same control of their own affairs which the people in the Colonies enjoy, with the sole proviso that if they have that control they shall not at the same time interfere in the affairs of Great Britain? What does that mean, but that the Prime Minister hopes to introduce legislation leading up eventually to the establishment of an Irish Parliament with the control of its own police, its own army, its own judiciary and its own taxes and customs tariff—because that is what the Colonies have—and that the Irish Members are either no longer to vote at Westminster or only to vote on Imperial matters? That is Home Rule in a far wider sense than ever entered into the imagination of Mr. Gladstone; and if it is the deliberate view of the Government that they are at liberty to introduce legislation tending, however remotely and at however distant a period, to such a goal, then they hold their present position on false pretences. The attack on the House of Lords turns out to be nothing but an attack on the outworks of the defences of the Union. The Liberal Party pretends to be concerned with the relations between the two Houses; what they are really concerned with is an alteration of the historical relations of Great Britain and Ireland.

I now pass to the question of the House of Lords. It will not have escaped attention that, although the paragraph referring to the House of Lords occupies the forefront of the gracious Speech from the Throne, and although my Amendment was not put down until last Thursday night, most of the speakers on the Address have scarcely referred to it. Perhaps that is not surprising. The Recess was given up to a kind of dress rehearsal of the battle scene to be shortly performed at Westminster. I must say I think that rehearsal was shockingly badly stage-managed. It was not only that the performers were few in number, because we are accustomed to that in all stage armies, and they made up for it by the frequency of their appearances. It was not that there was any lack of energy in shouting the war whoops which were intended to strike terror into the hearts of the enemy. If they failed in their object it was chiefly due to the fact that they had scarcely time to sound the note of defiance before the bugle was sounded for a hasty and precipitate retreat. That bugle was sounded by the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Board of Trade, who stepped at the critical moment into the arena and told his followers that it was no use to shout, because they could not end the House of Lords by shouting; that they must have some rational and practical scheme to put before the country. Thereupon the leaders of the army plunged once more into meditation, no doubt greatly assisted by eloquent lectures from the Minister for War, on the value of clear thinking, while the rank and file left off denouncing the criminal, and set themselves to devise some ingenious way to make the punishment fit the crime. Various schemes were propounded with that object. It has been suggested that we might admonish the House of Lords by a Resolution of this House. It has been suggested that the House of Commons should show its respect for Constitutional usage by adopting the frankly unconstitutional procedure of tacking a Bill or Resolution to a measure of Supply. And, lastly, it has been suggested that we might swamp the Peers altogether by a liberal introduction of fresh creations —[AN HON. MEMBER: Hear, hear.]—on the principle, I suppose—I do not know which represents the view of the hon. Gentleman who cheers—either that we cannot have too much of a good thing, or the homœopathic principle that like cures like. According to hon. Gentlemen opposite, the issue is a very simple one; it is whether the people intend to be masters in their own house, or whether they intend to be the wards in Chancery of the Liberal Party; whether they prefer to sign their own cheques, or whether they will place their whole rights and property at the unfettered disposal of the sixteen or seventeen very estimable but not infallible Gentlemen who adorn the Government Bench. If the question is so simple as hon. Gentlemen opposite say, why not put it to the country at once? Why this sudden discovery that there is no hurry at all, and that the democracy can sit down and wait while the Liberal Party once more apply themselves to what they themselves describe as the task of Sisyphus rolling up the boulders of legislation to the summit of the Parliamentary mountain, only to see them plunge again down into the abyss? I can only conclude it is because the Government have not made up their own minds as to what their real grievance against the House of Lords is. The accounts of that grievance have been somewhat inconsistent. At one time we are told that the House of Lords reduces the Liberal Party to impotence. At another the Liberal Party tell us they have passed more legislation than any other Government in one session. At one time we are told that the House of Lords is an hereditary assembly dominated by class interests; and at another the complaint is that they passed the Trade Disputes Bill and the Land Tenure Bill, in one of which they had a direct personal interest, while they refused to pass the Plural Voting and the Education Bills—in neither of which had they any interest at all. I fall back on the latest version of the grievance given by the Prime Minister—namely, that the House of Lords is a partisan assembly. If that merely means that the House of Lords contains more Conservatives than Liberals, then, of course, the fact is undeniable. But the fact itself stands in need of some explanation, because the House of Lords is not a purely hereditary assembly, but is constantly recruited by the addition of fresh Peers created by the Crown on the advice of responsible Ministers. During the last half-century there has been a far greater number of Liberal than of Conservative creations. What is the reason therefore why there are now so many more Conservative than Liberal Peers? Is it that Liberal opinions have such a disastrous effect on the longevity of their owners; or is it that Liberals, like other people, grow wiser as they grow older; or is it that when Liberals enter the House of Lords they for the first time find it possible to consider measures on their intrinsic merits, and not solely with reference to their temporary popularity with one or other section of the community? If the complaint is that the Peers are invariably hostile to a Liberal administration it is not historically accurate, for there have been occasions, as in the China War, when the Lords, like the people, supported a Liberal Minister who had lost the confidence of the House of Commons. If the complaint is that the House of Lords throws out more Liberal than Conservative proposals, broadly speaking it is true; but is it necessarily relevant to the issue which Ministers have raised—namely, whether the people are to be masters in their own house? In that case what they ought to ask is not whether the House of Lords is favourable to this or to that Party, but whether it on the whole reflects the deliberate opinion and judgment of the country.

The answer to that is that while the House of Lords has more than once rejected proposals for great constitutional changes with the unanimous approval of the country, they have never offered a permanent resistance to measures which have been definitely submitted for the approval of the electors and have received their emphatic endorsement. If the grievance is that the House of Lords introduces an element not of permanent obstruction but of regrettable and irritating delay, is not that equally true of any constitutional check that could be suggested? Is it not equally true of the referendum and of every second Chamber that has ever existed? And is that to be regretted in itself? Is not the House of Lords our sole security for stability of policy, the sole guarantee against hasty and violent reversals of legislation? Surely it is grotesque to say we are to alter the fundamental institutions of the country simply to suit the whim of a handful of people whose only conception of progress appears to be that of the motor-car accompanied by an uninterrupted emission of gas and a series of rapid explosions. I readily admit that the check ought not to be one-sided, but ought to operate equally, whichever Party is in power. But obviously the Liberal Party, which is *par excellence* the Party of innovation, will offer more frequent opportunities for the exercise of that check than will the Conservative Party. But can it be shown, as right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite ought to be able to show, that the House of Lords habitually passes Conservative legislation of a kind which it would have rejected if it had been proposed by a Liberal Government? Can anyone pretend that there is any analogy between the Education Bill which the House of Lords passed four years ago, and the Plural Voting Bill which they rejected last year. The Plural Voting Bill introduced a change into our constitutional system; the Education Bill of 1902 introduced no new constitutional principle. [AN HON. MEMBER: Rates for religious education.] Why, for years and years you paid, not merely taxes, but rates, for denominational instruction in every Poor Law and reformatory school. There is another fundamental difference, viz., that the Education Bill could always be repealed, whereas in the nature of things the Plural Voting Bill, if carried, would render it impossible ever again to consult the electors whose franchises were taken away. Let us admit for a moment that everything which has been contended is true as to the House of Lords being a partisan Assembly. What is the logical inference? That the Government ought to make themselves responsible for a Bill to strengthen and reform that Assembly so as to make it impartial, so as to infuse into it all the elements of ripe judgment, expert knowledge, and experience which the country can furnish. If that is their policy they will find many supporters and approvers, not only here, but in the House of Lords itself. Is that the Government policy? Not at all. The Prime Minister said that he was not interested in the constitution of the House of Lords; what he is interested in is the relations between the two Houses. You do not want, therefore, a stronger and a more impartial Chamber; you do not want a single Chamber. What, then, do you want? The only hint that I can gather is one given by the Lord Advocate in a speech at Edinburgh some weeks ago. His scheme, as I understand it, was that the House should pass a Resolution—I will assume that the Resolution would be effective—that any measure which twice passes through the Commons should, by what he called an extension of the prerogative of the Crown, pass through the House of Lords *pro forma* and go forward to receive the Royal Assent. In other words, it is a Resolution limiting the veto. What does it mean? The House of Lords is to be kept for two purposes only—to provide sinecure honours for gentlemen who have no opinions of their own, who are too idle to do any work, or who are such snobs that their whole ambition is to be able to write "Lord" instead of "Mr." in front of their names; and to serve as a decoy to persuade the people of the country that they have still a constitutional check on the Ministry of the day, whereas in point of fact it would only exist to say "ditto" to anything a Radical Government proposed. That is a conception which naturally might commend itself to a Government which habitually lives under servile conditions in the compounds of the various sections of its own supporters. But I am rather inclined to think that they will find it difficult to persuade any Second Chamber to accept such a position as that, and they will find it still more difficult to deceive the people of the country by such a plan. It is nothing else than a single Chamber in disguise. I came across, the other day, a speech by a high constitutional authority, whose opinions, I think, will carry weight with hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House. It was a speech made in the year 1889 on a Motion to abolish the House of Lords—

> "The existence of a Second Chamber is confirmed by reason itself, because tyranny may proceed from a body as well as from one man, and it is protection that the ruling body should be divided into two branches, the emulation and even rivalry of which may prevent dangerous measures from being hurried through. That opinion is gaining ground in the country. During the agitation in 1884 there were probably many who thought we ought only to have one Chamber, that the House of Lords should be extinguished; but I believe that feeling has declined, and I believe that generally there is a strong feeling in the country that the House of Commons ought not to have the sole charge of the affairs of the nation. The House now is different from what it was in 1884. It is not only a more democratic body, and more responsive to gusts of outside feeling, but it is much changed in its inner working and construction. The introduction of the closure, and the way the closure is worked, makes this House a totally different body from what it was before, and renders it necessary to provide safeguards against the dangers of precipitate action which did not exist in 1884."

That speech was delivered by Mr. Bryce, the present Ambassador at Washington, in 1889, and I believe that it represents not only the truth but the feelings of the great mass of the people of this country. They are not going to entrust themselves to the tender mercies of a single Chamber, certainly not to one which, like the House of Commons, so habitually misrepresents the real balance of opinions in the country, and which, according to its own admission, cannot transact its business without the habitual suppression of the liberty of debate. The last election has apparently inspired Ministers with a most unfortunate belief in their ability to deceive the electors by an adroit use of "terminological inexactitudes." The latest illustration of that belief is their proposal in the name of popular government, and under the plea that they are extending the prerogatives of the Crown, to undermine the whole machinery on which popular control really rests, and sooner or later to expose the Crown itself.—[Cries of "Oh, oh," "Withdraw."]

MR. MOND (Chester): On a point of order, Sir. Is the hon. Member in order in accusing Members on this side of the House of disloyalty to the Crown?

*MR. SPEAKER: No such charge was made that I heard.

EARL PERCY: The hon. Member must know that the last thing I would do would be to impute disloyalty to any Member of this House. I am dealing with the effects of proposals, not with the intentions of hon. Gentlemen opposite, and I say that this proposal, if ever carried, would inevitably undermine the whole machinery of popular control; and it must, sooner or later, by making the Crown the sole arbiter between the Ministers and the people, expose it to all the artillery of Party criticism and Party attack. Disguise it how you will, this is a veiled attack on popular liberties and on the constitutional foundations of the British Monarchy itself. It will be difficult for the Government, among their many mandates to discover a mandate for any change so revolutionary as that. We make no complaint that this question has been raised. We agree with the Prime Minister, now that it has been raised, that it must go forward to its issue. We think it well that the people of the country have been given this timely warning of the true nature of the path which they are invited to tread. We have no doubt as to their answer. From the study of the social well-being of the nation the Government have turned aside to destroy her Institutions. It will not be the first time that the intoxication of power has lured its possessors to destruction; and that those who have claimed in the name of a popular mandate the right to be the sole and exclusive interpreters of the people's will have demonstrated by their fate the truth of the saying—*Quem Deus vult perdere prius dementat.* I beg to move.

Amendment proposed—

> "At the end of the Question, to add the words 'But humbly regrets that the social legislation declared by Your Majesty's Government to be urgent should be postponed for the purpose of effecting revolutionary changes

in the powers exercised by Parliament over the affairs of the United Kingdom and in the constitutional relation between the two Houses.'"—*Earl Percy.*

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): Even if the noble Lord had not made, as he always does, a most able, interesting, and eloquent speech, it would have been necessary as a mere matter of Parliamentary good manners to treat this Amendment with at least an outward show of respect. Is it not the fruit, as far as we know the only fruit, of prolonged and anxious deliberations among the Leaders of the Opposition? Is it not the proposition, and as far as we know, the only proposition, which the corporate wisdom of their united counsels has enabled them to present on their own responsibility? There is, I know, on the notice Paper another Amendment which I understand we are to discuss to-morrow, but though it is ushered into life at the same moment as this one, its parentage is dubious. What mingled strain of blood pulsates in its veins we may, perhaps, to-morrow discover; at any rate no man on that front bench, no hon. or right hon. Gentleman has had the courage to make himself answerable either for its features or its fortunes. The noble Lord's Amendment is the only direct issue which the official Opposition challenges us to meet. But if it were not for its respectable origin and sponsorship, I should have thought that among all the Amendments now on the notice Paper it was the least deserving of the serious consideration of the House. What does it mean? The noble Lord asks the House to affirm that the path of social reform is being wantonly blocked by the determination of His Majesty's Government to proceed with two political schemes of a revolutionary character. These two schemes have at this moment this much in common—that there is not a single hon. or right hon. Gentleman on that Bench who has the faintest or dimmest inkling of what shape they will take. We see to what straits the noble Lord has been driven in his speech to-night! The noble Lord has indulged in all kinds of ingenious speculations. His imagination has soared to the dizziest heights and dived to the murkiest depths of political folly and turpitude, to sketch out the possible proposals of His Majesty's Government in relation to Ireland. He has been obliged, for the purpose of his argument, knowing absolutely nothing of what the Government will propose, to treat these lurid, but unsubstantial visions as if they were solid, living, and moving realities. Unless you are going to lay down—and I shall be surprised if the Leader of the Opposition commits himself to any such doctrine—that whatever measures are "adumbrated" in the gracious Speech from the Throne it is the duty of Ministers in the debate on the Address to explain, if not in detail, at least in their main outline, I cannot imagine a more preposterous proceeding than to invite the House, as the noble Lord does, to condemn the Government in anticipation of their production for schemes of the real nature and contents of which neither he, nor anyone outside the Government, has any knowledge whatever. But the noble Lord has said one or two things which I cannot pass without immediate notice. I will not follow him in that long catalogue of unmentioned social reforms which he thinks ought to be added to a list which I thought sufficiently long already to tax all the time and energy even of a new Parliament in a single session. But I will deal with the two main branches into which his indictment has been divided—the question of Ireland and the question of the House of Lords.

As regards Ireland, the noble Lord, echoing, although somewhat softly, the strident notes of a speech of extraordinary and I must add uncharacteristic violence delivered two or three nights ago outside the House by the Leader of the Opposition, tells us that we are sitting here on false pretences, and that we are contemplating, if, indeed, we are not actually engaged in launching, a scheme which is at once revolutionary in its character and a gross breach of faith to the electors of this country. That is the charge which the noble Lord has made, and which is somewhat feebly cheered behind him.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY: Hear, hear.

MR. ASQUITH: The hon. Baronet always has the courage of the convictions of those who sit around him. But the

Leader of the Opposition, as I gathered from the speech to which I have referred, is shocked almost beyond his power of expression at the spectacle which he witnesses of the men actually responsible for the government of the country sliding slowly, but surely, into a perfect abyss of political dishonesty. True, his reprobation is tempered by some more agreeable emotions. After exhibiting our conduct in the darkest colours the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "Have we not here the elements of hope?"

That, Sir, is patriotism up to date. We have all known, in days gone by, politicians who had enough of the natural man left in them to find a gloomy satisfaction in the follies and ineptitudes of the rivals who had taken their place. But it has been reserved for the right hon. Gentleman, so far as my knowledge of history goes, to find a topic, not only of consolation, but of exultant hope, in the fact that the responsible Government of the day is engaged in the habitual and systematic violation of the moral law. It is difficult to treat these things seriously. But what is it all about? The noble Lord has not the remotest notion, nor has the Leader of the Opposition, of the actual schemes which the Government are about to introduce. All that they have to go upon, or, at any rate, all the recent information they have, is the declaration made in the course of this debate by the Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary—declarations in which there was nothing at all novel, declarations that my right hon. friends retained their conviction that the ultimate solution of the Irish problem could only be found in some form of what is called Home Rule, and therefore that they could not be parties to any changes which in their view were inconsistent with further and future developments in that direction. There is nothing new in that. It was said by both my right hon. friends and by many hon. Members on this side both before and during the General Election. But apparently it is not they who are on the eve of committing this great act of political perfidy. Who are the guilty parties? Am I one of them? The noble Lord spared me any quotations from my speeches, for which I am very grateful, although he quoted some of the utterances of my close friends and colleagues. I want to use very plain language with regard to this matter, and I will, therefore, say this in face of the House. If, when the scheme of the Government is produced—and I am not going to say anything about it until it is produced—it contains any provision which either in letter or spirit is inconsistent with, or is a violation of, any pledge, assurance, or declaration that I have ever given, either before or during the General Election—if that is the case, and it can be proved, I will at once resign my position in His Majesty's Government. It is quite true that I said, as several of my colleagues and as a great number of Gentlemen behind me said, that we regarded the dominating issue at the last election as the great issue between free trade and protection; and certainly I, amongst others, declared that in my view the introduction or passing of what is called a Home Rule Bill—that is to say, a Bill for creating an Irish Legislature with an Executive dependent on and responsible to it—would not and could not form part of the business of this House of Commons. If I were to be a party to the presentation of any such scheme I agree that I should be guilty of a breach of faith. Nothing could be plainer. But that was not the only pledge I gave to the electors. The hon. Member for Waterford the other night justly reminded us that the whole of us of the Liberal Party, in all its shades and sections, voted as one man with him in the late House of Commons in favour of a resolution which condemned, root and branch, the present system of administration in Ireland. I am not going, nor are any of my friends, to recede by one inch from the position which we took up then. I do not like to quote my own speeches. I would rather quote other people's. But since we are deliberately accused, not of a mere ordinary inconsistency, but—and by responsible politicians—of holding our seats here by false pretences, then in face of a slander of that kind, and it is nothing but a slander, the House of Commons will pardon what may seem a display of egotism if I endeavour to overtake it at once, before it has legs enough and wind enough, to carry it on its journey. I go back to the year 1902, a year when, as the historian will record, there were grave differences of opinion, though exaggerated differences as I always thought, within the ranks of the Liberal Party.

Speaking at a most critical moment in the month of March, during that episode in our history, I expressed the view on this subject which I then entertained and which I entertain now, and which I see no occasion to vary or modify. I pointed out that the difficulty of the Irish problem consisted in two main things, one of a local and the other of an Imperial kind, though interdependent and interlaced one with the other. The local factor is discontent, chronic, persistent, secular, in Ireland. The Imperial factor is the growing congestion in this House of business with which our forms of Procedure are totally unable to deal. As to the first I said—

> "That discontent springs from causes, not the least important of which has been the almost complete dissociation of the Irish people from their own administration and government, both local and central."

After referring to the rejection of the two Home Rule Bills, those of 1886 and 1893, I said—

> "What does that bring us to? I am a practical man, and I am not ashamed to own it, in politics as elsewhere; and if I find I cannot attain my ends by a particular road, if I find that road is blocked, I try to attain my ends by some other, and I am not going to acknowledge that I have abandoned the object of my journey because, taught by experience, I seek a different way to it, or because that which I hoped to accomplish in a day at one stage I am obliged to accomplish in several stages slowly and indirectly."

And I went on to say this—

> "I have not abandoned, and I do not know any Liberal who has, the ends of our Irish policy. I want to see Irish discontent, not bribed or dosed into a kind of lethargic and temporary suspension, I want to see it exorcised, extirpated, got rid of, and I am certain that, in the long run, that end cannot be fully attained except by the gradual but ever-increasing association of the people with their own Government, by the stimulus of local knowledge, and by the restraints of local responsibility."

That was the doctrine which I preached then, the doctrine which I have preached ever since, and the doctrine which, so far as opportunity allows me, I mean to practise to-day. I will not trouble the House with any further quotation from myself; but I should like to read two or three lines from a speech of one who has always been, and, I am thankful to say, still is, one of my closest and most intimate political colleagues and friends—the right hon. Baronet who is now the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs. Speaking at Newcastle—the noble Lord has already referred to the speech—at the end of November, 1905, I think within a week of the resignation of the late Government, and, therefore, when we were on the threshold of the election, he used this language:—

> "Supposing the victory of free trade over protection had been accomplished, as he believed it would be at the next election, what what was going to be the policy of the Liberal Government with regard to Ireland? He would quote what he thought that policy should be. It was this—large administrative reforms on the lines which have already received, for a moment, the approval of Mr. Balfour, and for a permanency—"

I am not quite sure that he was right here—

> "—the approval of Mr. Wyndham and to which Sir Antony MacDonnell has earnestly devoted his time and attention. To that and to the development of local institutions in Ireland the next Liberal Government will be able to devote their energies."

And he said—I ask the House to notice this—

> "There were certain steps of reform which he thought were ripe to be taken, and should be taken. Not one of these would prevent people going further if they wished it afterwards."

This is the doctrine of what is called instalments; it is not the doctrine of which the Prime Minister is the sole and exclusive exponent—

> "But the country would reserve its opinion with regard to the further steps until it had seen the result of Sir Antony MacDonnell's policy. In his opinion, when they came to future Parliaments and future years, the country would have to go further still; but he was prepared to take what he believed to be the settled opinion of the British electors, that they must have one step at a time."

I venture to say that if, after declarations of that kind, my right hon. friend and I, or any of us, were, in deference to these clumsy taunts about Home Rule, to recede from the position we then took up, to fold our arms, to try and put the Irish question on the shelf—I can assure the House, from twenty years experience, there is no more difficult operation—we should indeed have sunk to the lowest depths of cowardice and political dishonesty. The noble Lord asked, "Is it going to lead up to Home Rule?" There is no constitutional change, no change of any sort or kind, I venture to say, in the whole sphere of Irish administration which cannot be plausibly represented both by its

Mr. Asquith.

friends and its opponents as leading up to Home Rule. Who are the people who talk about steps leading up to Home Rule? From what quarter, with what kind of authority, I would venture to ask with what cleanness of hands, are these charges put forward? Why, have we forgotten the Local Government Bill? Was that a step towards Home Rule?

*MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): No.

*MR. ASQUITH: The right hon. Gentleman opposite says "No." Has he forgotten Lord Salisbury's Newport speech in which he declared that that very concession, that very mode of dealing with the Irish question, would be far more dangerous both to the interests of the minority and to Imperial unity than a full-blown scheme of Home Rule itself? I am not going into the curious and interesting, but still obscure chapter of recent history—the appointment of Sir Antony MacDonnell, an avowed Nationalist, to take the place, as we were told by Lord Lansdowne, and as we were told by the then Chief Secretary, and as the correspondence showed, not of a mere subordinate, not of an ordinary Civil servant, but of a man who was to have a voice in the actual determination and direction of the policy of the country. [AN IRISH MEMBER: As a colleague.] Yes, I think the word actually used was "a colleague"—a sort of colleague. I do not want to go into that. It is a painful subject. We have never understood to this moment either why it was that the late Chief Secretary resigned and yet the Prime Minister did not resign, or why it was that, if the Prime Minister felt bound to accept the Chief Secretary's resignation, the services of Sir Antony MacDonnell were retained. I say it is a painful subject. I think in the whole history, mythological and actual, of the human race, at any rate since the day when Iphigenia bared her throat to the knife at Aulis, there has been no more extraordinary, mysterious and inexplicable instance of vicarious sacrifice. My own test—I only offer it for what it is worth—with regard to any proposal for legislation and changes in the administration of Ireland is not whether it leads to or leads away from a particular solution which is not for the moment in question, but whether it tends to get you further on the road towards the attainment of our two great purposes—the emancipation of the Imperial Parliament from business which it cannot do and the setting free of its hands for business which it ought to do and does not do, and the growing association, within the limits of Imperial unity, of the Irish people with responsibility for all merely Irish concerns. If only the voice of faction could be stilled, the voice of a faction, a noisy and intolerant, but, as I believe, a dwindling faction—if only the voice of that faction could be stilled, there never was a moment when there was a better prospect of making a substantial advance, with the general consent of reasonable men, on the path which leads to contentment and loyalty. Some, at any rate, of the presuppositions of what I may call old-fashioned Unionism—the notion, for instance, that if you gave the Irish power over their own affairs they would abuse it to oppress the minority and impose unjust burdens, by discrimination of religion and class, on their fellow-countrymen—some of these presuppositions, as I think even the right hon. Gentleman opposite would be glad to acknowledge, have been negatived, and more than negatived, by the experience we have had of the working of local institutions in Ireland. I would ask one further question. Is there anyone in this House or out of it who knows the condition of Ireland, and the temper of the British people—and those are the two important factors with which we have got to deal, both of which have largely altered during the past fifteen years—is there anyone with that knowledge who can doubt that the area of misunderstanding, both between classes in Ireland and between peoples on opposite sides of St. George's Channel, has been steadily narrowed and cut down? The Government, at any rate, wish to approach this task, even if our effort at the moment is not on what is called an heroic scale, not in this atmosphere of suspicion which the noble Lord has sought to engender. We wish to approach it in the spirit of good-fellowship, and in the hope that our efforts may be attended with some share, at any rate, of the blessing which is promised to those who seek peace and ensue it.

Now I pass for a moment to the other branch of the noble Lord's attack, because, after the clear and full declaration which has been made by the Prime Minister earlier in this debate, no more is needed, if, indeed, anything is needed but two or three sentences. The noble Lord says we have not made up our mind what our grievance against the Lords is. We must be a very slow-witted Party to be in that condition. Does anyone defend, does the noble Lord himself defend, the present system? He does not. What is that system? It is a system in which, it is true, you have got a second Chamber. The noble Lord said something about considering measures on their intrinsic merits. No doubt that is the ideal function of a second Chamber in Plato's Republic or any imaginary polity of that kind; but the second Chamber as we have it in fact and experience, as everyone who is listening to me knows perfectly well, accepts practically without demur everything that a Tory House of Commons sends to it, and rejects or mutilates with as little hesitation, subject, I agree, to the restraining influence of an occasional fit of prudent alarm, the vast proportion, at any rate, of the measures which are sent up to it by a Liberal House of Commons. The noble Lord compared the treatment of the Education Bill of the late Government with that of the Plural Voting Bill of the present Government. You could not have an apter illustration of what I mean. The Education Bill of the late Government was a measure which had not only never been submitted to the electors, but which, I venture to say, not one man in a thousand at the General Election of 1900 ever dreamt of being introduced. The measure was violent, revolutionary, subversive of the system which had prevailed for thirty years, and it was protested against and voted against by us, then a small minority in this House, with a pertinacity which I have rarely seen surpassed, and accepted by the House of Lords without demur. And the noble Lord actually has the courage in defending the title of the House of Lords to be a second Chamber which considers measures on their intrinsic merits, and in view of the degree of acceptance and satisfaction which they have received from the people of this country, to contrast that with the case of the Plural Voting Bill! The principle of the Plural Voting Bill has been before the electors of this country for more than twenty years. Go back to the General Election of 1885, and read the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham and others, and you will find that there was not a Liberal candidate during that time who did not use the old formula "one man, one vote." But the noble Lord tells us, with a strange indifference either to the facts or to the intelligence of this House, that it would have been an irreparable mistake to pass the Plural Voters Bill, because its victims would have been hopelessly disfranchised. He forgets that they would all have been left in possession of a vote. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] Yes, unless they were stupid and ignorant, and if they took the most ordinary precautions. My right hon. friend the First Commissioner of Works and I took hours and weeks in devising safeguards in the interests of the careless and absent-minded plural voter. Moreover, that was a Bill which peculiarly affected the privileges and position of this House. It was heartily approved of at the last general election by the vast bulk of the electors of the country, and I do not hesitate to say that its rejection by the House of Lords was a direct affront to the popular will. The noble Lord, with perhaps unconscious irony, in the framing of this Resolution professes to deplore the postponement of social reform to political change. I will not go through his list of social reforms; but was there ever a clearer case of putting the cart before the horse. Where, I ask, and in what quarter is social reform really blocked? Every proposal of the kind that we make, provided that it interfere—and what social reform worthy of the name does not interfere — with the vested interests of some class—every measure of that kind that we propose—as we know by long and bitter experience —has in the course of its progress, if it is to get on to the Statute Book at all, to be diluted and doctored to suit the palates of an Assembly which regards the safeguarding of vested interests as one of its supreme trusts. The matter was never brought more clearly to a head than it was at the close of last session. What happened then? A minority of this House numerically almost insignificant, fresh from an almost unexampled rebuff at the polls—that minority, by the aid of the agency of the House of Lords, showed itself able to control, and even to dictate, the legislation of the country. The noble Lord has very aptly used the metaphor of Sisyphus and reminded us that we live laborious days in painfully pushing a stone up a hill, only when it has reached the top to have it hurled back. If I might change the metaphor I should say that whatever we do we are either checkmated or stalemated; we play under conditions under which we can never win the game. Well, that is the state of the situation; and the position of the reference to this matter in the King's Speech shows the overshadowing importance of this matter over all the rest of the legislative programme, and the deliberate opinion of His Majesty's Government that we are face to face with a caricature and a mockery of representative government. We are determined, with the assent of our fellow countrymen, as we believe, to provide for it, as soon as may be, an effectual remedy.

*MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans) said he rose, with very much diffidence, to support the motion of the noble Lord the Member for Kensington. He was quite sure that the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer in a very large measure justified the claim raised by the noble Lord that the present Government was committed to a policy of Home Rule. If there had been any doubt in their minds before, that doubt had now been removed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had complained that hon. Members of the Opposition did not know the character of the measure which the present Administration proposed to bring in. They might not have the details before them, but certain particulars they had, and they believed that they were justified in judging of that measure by the forecast which had been vouchsafed to them. They were told that it would be a measure leading up to, and consistent with the larger policy of Home Rule. If the measure did not come up to that description of it, then they were justified in complaining that the Prime Minister had not placed before the House a fair forecast of his principal measure for the session. Although the Chancellor of the Exchequer had assured his constituents at the time of the General Election that no Home Rule Bill would be introduced in this Parliament, they had the distinct assurance of the Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary for Ireland that the Government were going to bring in a measure which would lead up to and be consistent with Home Rule. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the temper of the people of England had changed during the last fifteen years. The right hon. Gentleman would, he thought, find that so far as Home Rule was concerned the temper of the people of England had not changed, and that they were as opposed to the granting of Home Rule to Ireland as in 1886 or 1893, or to any measure which would lead up to it. He supported the Amendment of the noble Lord because it condemned the postponement by the Government of social legislation. Social legislation only found a very meagre place at the end of the King's Speech. Was it to be postponed until after the Attorney-General's revolution of which they had heard so much, or until the Chief Secretary for Ireland had succeeded in taking an efficient step towards the disintegration of the Empire? If so, social legislation would be postponed for a very long time. It was proposed that certain revolutionary changes should be made in relation to the powers of Parliament over the affairs of the United Kingdom. Such proposals would be met with consistent opposition by all who believed that the union between this country and Ireland was essential to the well-being and the existence not only of the United Kingdom but of the whole British Empire. The present Administration would find it extremely difficult to carry out what they proposed to do, until, in the words of Lord Rosebery, it undertook "to convert the predominant partner." Mr. Bryce, now British Ambassador to the United States, had told an audience at Newcastle that Ireland was in a state of profound peace. If that right hon. Gentleman were now in the House they might ask him to read the evidence in that day's *Times* of the existence of boycotting in Ireland, showing that there were many people there suffering from grievous persecution. If the control of the affairs of that island were handed over to the disloyal majority, hundreds, if not thousands, of persons would be subjected to tyranny and persecution which would make their lives intolerable, and in all probability result in their having to leave the country. Other changes were referred to in the Amendment of the noble Lord relating to the constitutional relations between the two Houses of Parliament. These justified them in asking if it was true that the House of Lords did reject measures which the country really wanted. He believed that that statement was not warranted. Reference had been made to the Education Bill of last year; but such a measure was referred to the electorate in January last. There was then no proposal laid before the country practically to destroy the denominational schools, and to make it impossible for children to be brought up in the religion of their parents, or for head teachers to impart religious instruction to the children in the schools, however much they might desire to do so. The country gave no mandate for the iniquitous Education Bill of 1906, and little courtesy was shown to the House of Lords for the excellent Amendments they introduced into that measure. As regarded Plural Voting the House of Lords acted as they might be expected to act in regard to such a measure. It was a party measure introduced in a petty party spirit, merely in order to enable the Government, who had been returned on the cry of Chinese slavery, to obtain some cheap popularity. It was a paltry party measure which was rightly and justly thrown out by the House of Lords, and he was sure when the issue was placed before them, the country would back up the House of Lords in regard to their action upon both the Education Bill and the Plural Voting Bill. They on that side were prepared to go to the country upon this Education question alone. They spent two months in debating it, and notwithstanding the admiration which had been expressed for the conduct of that measure by the new Chief Secretary for Ireland, still the Bill was a bad one and the House of Lords were justified in treating it as they had done. There was no doubt that the only mandate before the electors at the last General Election was that of the alleged Chinese slavery in the Transvaal, and now after fourteen months the Under-Secretary for the Colonies had told them that during the month of January no fewer than 2,121 indentured Chinese labourers were introduced into the country. That was the way in which the only mandate which the Government received from the people had been treated, and the present Ministry, who were going to put a stop to the slavery in the Transvaal, were admitting the Chinese as freely as ever. Why should social legislation be deferred in order to give Home Rule to Ireland and to attack the House of Lords? The procedure seemed to be like that of the Chinaman who set fire to his house in order to light his pipe, and this precious Government seemed to wish to destroy the British Constitution in order to carry out their policy of attacking the House of Lords. In consequence of the long frost there had been a large amount of unemployment, but those out of work had meanwhile not received a word of encouragement or any assurance that the difficulties they were encountering would be dealt with. That was the condition of the country at a time when they were told that trade was booming and that the trade returns were going up by leaps and bounds under a system of so-called free trade. They hoped that the time might come when under better auspices and under a better fiscal system they would be able to do away with that system under which the suffering poor now existed, a condition of things which found no word or echo of sympathy in the gracious Speech. In supporting the Amendment he hoped that before long it would be realised by a large majority of this House that by the action of the House of Lords during the past session, and their action in 1886 and 1893 in reference to the Home Rule Bills, they had constituted an efficient barrier between the people of this country and the first steps towards the disintegration of the Empire and of the interests which the present generation had received from those who had gone before them and which they desired to pass on to their successors.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth) said that there were two words in the Amendment which had impressed him very much, viz., the reference to "revolutionary changes." He was not aware that they had in the King's Speech anything which could be called a revolutionary measure, and he was content to wait until he saw the proposals of His Majesty's Government before deciding on the point. He would say, however, that he did not think that a revolution was or revolutionary measures were at all likely to come hurriedly in this country, although language of that kind might be used by newspapers or by perfervid orators. In this country, however, revolutions had been extremely rare, although it was quite true that we had sometimes what might be called political violence, but, in the same way as a seismic disturbance might take place at Java or Jamaica and not disturb much the action of the instrument which at Greenwich Observatory registered the movement of the earth, so, although the eyes of every man woman or child might be riveted on a particular constituency, the stability of the British Constitution was not disturbed. We had great cyclones in which feeling was greatly excited, but if the earth did not open public-houses did, and if property was not destroyed tempers were sometimes lost, and although lives were not jeopardised, reputations occasionally suffered. But what did the total of all this mean? The great institutions of the country had scarcely given a susceptible reception to the oscillations of the electorate, and the stability of the British Constitution of which they heard so much was something to strike despair into the heart of the too ardent social reformer. The Resolution expressed regret that social legislation was to be put on one side for the purpose of making changes in the constitutional relation of the two Houses, but he hoped the noble Lord who moved the Amendment, and to whose speech they had listened with the greatest pleasure, would forgive him if he said that many of them on that side of the House heard his expressions of regret with considerable reserve. He did not know anything more fascinating, on the historical side of the two Parties, than the question of what they had each of them achieved in regard to social reform. The Leader of the Opposition had challenged the Government to show whether, as a matter of fact, more measures of social reform had not been put upon the Statute-book by Tory Governments than by Liberal Governments. He had no doubt about it. More measures of social reform had been placed upon the Statute-book by Tory than by Liberal Governments, but there was a very easy explanation. In all cases in the history of social reform it had been the mission of the Liberal Party to go into the constituencies and, as it were, sow the seed of social reform; but when it came to putting measures on the Statute-book, the Liberal Party had failed because they had found that the friction of the constitutional machine was such that they were not able to do anything more than propose, and possibly fail in carrying, their measures of social reform. The next stage of the process was that the Conservatives, who had crippled these measures, and who, by their representatives in the House of Lords, had been able to stop their becoming law, were able to take up the threads of social reform where the Liberals had left them, and, being able to pass them in the House of Lords, were enabled to place them, in an attenuated form, on the Statute-book. He did not, from the other point of view, know why the noble Lord should regret that the social legislation declared by the Liberal Government to be urgent, should be postponed for the purpose of effecting revolutionary changes in the powers exercised by Parliament over the affairs of the United Kingdom and in the constitutional relation between the two Houses. The question of social reform was urgent, and if the Liberal Party were about to play, were forced to play, as they might be, from the necessities of the case, their customary role of endeavouring to overcome the difficulties of the constitutional machine, it was possible, but, he hoped, not probable, that history might repeat itself, and that the Liberal Party might not be able to carry the social measures they now so ardently desired. He hoped the traditional role in this case would not be fulfilled. He would venture to draw an analogy. He was told it was the custom of the astute Chinaman to do his fishing by proxy. He did not trouble to fish for himself, but trained a cormorant, who dived into deep, and sometimes muddy, water, and brought up a fish on which he hoped to make a savoury meal.

MR. JEREMIAH MACVEAGH (Down, S.) called attention to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted; and, forty Members being found present—

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR, continuing, said: But when the bird endeavoured to swallow its fish it was found it had a gold ring round its neck, which made the process of swallowing impossible, and, worse still, that it was compelled to disgorge the fish and see its wily co-adventurer enjoy the fish which it had obtained. Nobody who had seen the way in which the bird had tried to get its meal, and been deprived of the fruits of its labour by the wily Chinaman who got the benefit, could watch it without sympathy. The analogy he wished to draw between the Parties in that House and that story was that it was the Liberal Party which went down into the deep waters and brought up what it thought was essential to the well-being of the community, and it was the Tory Party which, by the political machinery of the country, had been able to profit by the labours of its opponents. The time had come when some change was necessary in the constitution of the relationship of the two Houses. He thought the tendering of a "humble regret" from the other side of the House at the postponement of what must eventually inure to the benefit of the community might, with some decency, be abandoned.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) said the Amendment now before the House was one of which he was rather jealous. He himself had put down an Amendment in respect of the constitution of the House of Lords, and, at great inconvenience to himself, he had remained in the House to a late hour in order to ensure that his Amendment should be put first on the list. After some three days of incubation, however, there came an Amendment, the words of which might be those of the noble Lord, but which certainly showed the hand of the right hon. Gentleman the senior Member for London. The Amendment was an exceedingly clever one. It began with the insinuation that the Liberal Party were endeavouring to postpone social legislation in order to carry the country into an agitation in favour of what was called both revolutionary and unconstitutional reform. Those two words, however, meant nothing but an expression of opinion in the mind of the speaker or writer who used them. Then they said that the attempt to alter the constitutional relationship between the two Houses was being made by men who ought to forward the social legislation of the country. As he understood it, it was an attempt to alter the constitutional relations in order that the measures of social reform proposed by this House should not be obstructed or mutilated in the other. They were attempting to take away the barrier and make social legislation easy of performance. One of the greatest social reformers who ever lived was a Tory Peer, and his name stood most high in the history of this country. If ever there was a great and good man in this world that man was Lord Shaftesbury. What were Lord Shafesbury's views upon this question? When he began public life he forswore everything that would prevent social reform. Lord Shaftesbury, speaking of his own times, said that the measures of social reform sent up by the House of Commons were mutilated and rejected by the House of Lords and, in relation to the Mines Regulation Bill, that he never saw a greater instance of the selfishness of the House of Lords and of their frigidity towards anything like social reform; that the selfishness and insensibility to human sympathy in that assembly was absolutely without parallel. Lord Shaftesbury further said that if the people were alive to their own interests they would see what the House of Lords was. He compared the House of Lords to a rabbit and the people to a boa-constrictor, and said the rabbit was ready in its cage if the boa-constrictor was in earnest. He (Mr. MacNeill) thought the boa-constrictor was in earnest now. If ever there was an instance of the mutilation of a measure of social reform by the House of Lords that instance was the Parish Councils Bill. Mr. Gladstone's last expression from the front bench was that the issue was between the Lords and the people—between those who represented themselves and 70,000,000 of people—as to whether they should have a permanent and predominant voice in regard to their own interests. It was very easy to speak of certain proceedings that they did not like as revolutionary and unconstitutional. Though the Government had not told them their scheme, yet he averred that no scheme, however drastic, or the reform of the House of Lords, could be, historically, either revolutionary or illegal. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had not told them what the Government programme was, but they could easily gather what it was from certain expressions used, so far back as March

1888, by the Secretary of State for India in the debate in this House on the hereditary principle. Speaking as representing the leaders of the Liberal Party, the Secretary for India said that the first measure to take in effecting a reform was to make the people masters in their own House of Parliament—to take care that the hereditary principle was no longer allowed to stand in the way of the wishes of a free self-governing and self-respecting nation. Therefore, they knew that the hereditary principle must be attacked in some form, unless the Government had altered their opinion since 1889. But this was said to be unconstitutional, and that the relations of the House of Lords were constitutional. They were nothing of the kind. In order to be in accordance with the principles of the Constitution and with long practice, the House of Lords and the House of Commons must be two assemblies of harmonious tendencies, and not of contrasted or opposed tendencies. The House of Lords was of contrasted and opposed tendencies. That had been so ever since 1832, and it had become so more and more every day. The House of Commons had been reformed no fewer than three times; the House of Lords had never been reformed in any circumstances whatsoever. There had been no such thing in the course of 750 years as an Act of Parliament for a reform of the House of Lords, however slight, except one, and that Act, passed in 1871, was to preclude bankrupt Peers from getting their writs. In all that regarded the composition of the two Houses in their social caste, and in all the ideas that governed the people at large, the two Houses of Parliament were not co-ordinate, but contrasted and opposing Houses. It was not so before 1832, because the same aristrocratic influences which dominated the House of Lords then dominated the House of Commons. It was not imagination to say that the House of Commons, until 1832, was in the hands of the House of Lords. Of 658 Members of the House of Commons, no fewer than 487 were returned by single individuals, and of these 487 there were 310 returned as the nominees of Peers. The Duke of Norfolk alone nominated no fewer than eleven men to be sent to the House of Commons. The hereditary principle of the House of Lords, as they now knew, was a very modern outcome of constitutional development. Would it surprise people to know that until certainly the period of the Revolution, the majority of Members of the House of Lords were not hereditary? They were the Lords spiritual; they were abbots or prelates—prelates of a very different character from the twenty prelates we had now. In the Middle Ages the humblest boy, if he went into the Church, was allowed to rise to the highest position. Until the time of the Revolution, the spiritual Peers always commanded a large majority over the temporal Peers, and of those spiritual Peers at least two-thirds were men who, while surrounded by all the privileges and grandeur of wealth, felt for the people, and, although not selected by the people, yet represented the people in feeling, thought, and tradition, for they were, in many cases, allied to the people from among whom they had sprung. Forty temporal Peers had been created since the commencement of the present reign, and 295 were created in the last reign. After the Wars of the Roses, in the reign of Henry VII., there were only twenty-nine lay Peers, and in the reign of Henry VIII., fifty-nine. With the increase in the number of Peers there was an increase of the number of rotten boroughs. These rotten boroughs were created to overwhelm the popular vote, and with a fresh batch of rotten boroughs there was a fresh batch of Peers. In the Stuart *régime* there were 193 Peers created, nearly all of them purchased in the reign of James I. and Charles I., and certainly all were bought in the reign of Charles II. In the reign of George III. no fewer than 388 Peers were created, and these men on a whole were not of great distinction; they were large contributors to Party funds, and they utterly altered the tone of the House of Lords, and brought it into still greater contrast with the House of Commons and with popular feeling. Were the temporal Peers hereditary? He would ask the Government, who had a scheme in contemplation, to consider this question very carefully. He affirmed, and he had never been contradicted, that it was perfectly competent for the Minister of the Crown, for the Cabinet, to advise the Sovereign to issue or withhold the writ of summons, by which alone a Peer could attend. Lord Cranborne, speaking in the House of Lords in February, 1856, said that the presence of Peers in the House of Lords depended on the writ of summons, which either could be given or withheld. The writ of summons was not an honour, and not a privilege of the Peer. It was an obligation upon him to attend for the performance of most solemn duties, and it was unquestionable that if the Crown did not consider a Peer capable of giving the Crown counsel and advice, it was fully within its purview and power to return his writ, postpone it, or even cancel it. It did not interfere in the slightest degree with his *status* as a Peer. No lawyer would deny that the prerogative of the Crown could not be taken away, and the exercise of the prerogative in the Stuart time, however arbitrary, was not illegal. Under the Bill of Rights it could be acted upon, not *in propria persona*, but it could be exercised as acting under the Constitution and on the advice of Ministers. When the present Duke of Devonshire became a Member of the House of Lords he appeared before their Lordships to take the Oath, but as he had omitted to bring with him his writ of summons the administering of the Oath was refused, and he could not take his seat. The Crown could either act or refuse to act in regard to the issue of writs of summons to Peers for attendance in Parliament. The issue of a writ of summons was not a matter of privilege, but a question of consultation with the Crown as to whether a person ought or ought not to be invited to take part in the proceedings of the Upper Chamber. It was well known that the late Lord Selborne, a distinguished lawyer who had been Lord Chancellor, held the opinion that a man might be a Peer of the Realm and not a Lord of Parliament, it being entirely in his discretion on succeeding to a peerage whether or not he took out a writ of summons. Accordingly the noble Lord's son, the present Lord Selborne, who as Lord Wolmer was a Member of the House of Commons, attempted to retain his seat in the House after his succession to the peerage, contending that he was not a Lord of Parliament and did not propose to become one; but the authorities decided against him. Let these gentlemen be Peers of the Realm as much as they liked, let them be free to become Members of the House of Commons if they liked; but even if they were as wise as Solon they should not be permitted to make laws unless they occupied some sort of elective position. The way he advocated for dealing with the House of Lords involved no dissolution of Parliament, but was a smooth and easy procedure well within the competency of the Crown to exercise on the advice of the Ministers. The House of Lords could be dealt with in the way he had suggested and the Veto Bill could still be gone on with. They ought to be acting in this matter, and they did not want simply to pass a Resolution or have abuse of the House of Lords as a kind of doxology in every Liberal speech. It was quite clear from history that the prerogative of the Crown could not be destroyed by desuetude. They had had some experience on this point during the reign of Edward I. Why could not the same prerogative be used by the Crown to-day? As guardians and trustees for the people with whose interests they were connected and whose interests were very dear to them, could they, as sane men, allow a gentleman simply because he was the son of his father to be a revising agent over their proceedings? The less some of them said about that the better. Many of the peerages were obtained because the first peers were the illegitimate sons of distinguished persons. There was one peerage still in existence which was given to a man because he married the cast-off mistress of an English king. In the past many knighthoods and baronetcies had been bought with large sums of money and some of the peerages had been bought by more considerable sums. He wished to express his gratitude to the hon. Member for having made his proposal the official Amendment of the Opposition Party. With regard to Ireland he had sat in the House of Commons for twenty years and they had had their little quarrels with the House of Lords. The hon. Member for South Tyrone who was always remarkably moderate in his language made a speech twenty years ago in which he said that they in Ireland would make short work of the House of Lords, and that he did not know anyone outside a lunatic asylum who would defend the hereditary principle. His hon. friend in speaking thus was going completely on historical precedent. In 1751 in the Irish Parliament a Dublin crowd invaded the House of Lords and pitched them all out. They found an old woman in the street, placed her on the seat of reverence—the woolsack—and put a churchwarden clay pipe in her mouth. He wished that members of this House would take matters more clearly into their own hands and deal with the House of Lords. He was extremely grateful to the senior Member for the City of London for linking together the question of the House of Lords and the Irish question. It was delightful to think that when they went to the country attacking the House of Lords they would also be attacking the hacks of Dublin Castle. They were pretty much in the same boat, and he hoped they would live and die in the same boat. If the man in the street were asked whether the men constituting the House of Lords with such antecedents as he had described should rule over him the answer would be "I do not think so." He himself would say that even if their ancestors had rendered valuable service to the State, that did not confer on their descendants a hereditary right to legislate.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall) said he desired to support the Amendment which his noble friend had proposed in such eloquent terms. The Opposition had a grievance against the Government for introducing into the King's Speech two revolutionary measures. They felt aggrieved because these measures were not put before the country twelve months ago. Whenever Home Rule was mentioned on the platform by Unionist candidates they were told it was a bogey and a scarecrow, and that Home Rule was not going to be introduced during the life of this Parliament. The other question—that of the House of Lords—was never raised at the recent election. As to the question of Home Rule, he reminded the House that the right hon. Member for Wolverhampton had said that if a Home Rule Bill was introduced it would be not only a fraud, but be a breach of faith and an act of dishonesty; while the Chief Secretary for Ireland had said "Home Rule was not an issue, and could not be." But he understood from the speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer that he excused himself by saying they were only going to give a measure of devolution — a half-way measure. Did the Chancellor of the Exchequer tell the electorate twelve months ago he was going half-way to Home Rule? If he had, they all knew what the answer would have been. They all knew that the measure was going to lead up to a separate Parliament in Ireland, and ultimately to a separate nation altogether. What did the late Mr. Gladstone say on the question of devolution when it was brought forward? When he introduced his Home Rule Bill in 1886 there was a suggestion that he was going too far, and he said:—

> "It is absurd, in my opinion, to talk of the adoption of such a scheme—that of delegating various branches of Irish affairs to a central elective body—in the face of two obstacles. Firstly, that those whom it is intended to benefit do not want it, do not ask for it, and refuse it."

He understood that was the position of Irish Members to-day. What was the second obstacle?

> "That all those who are fearful of giving a domestic Legislature to Ireland would naturally and emphatically, and rather justly, say: 'We will not create your Central Board and palter with this question, because we feel certain that it will afford nothing in this world except a stage from which to agitate for further concession—and because we see that by the proposal you make you will not even attain the advantage of settling the question raised.'"

The settlement which the hon. Member for Waterford sought was plain, because he had said they would be satisfied with nothing less than a Parliament in Dublin, with an Executive responsible to it. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had proposed a scheme of Devolution which was to lead up to that. He understood the Government admitted that. It was not denied. As to the other revolutionary measure, the Government had no case against the House of Lords, and would have been better advised to have waited until such time when the House of Lords had really rejected a popular measure. In amending the Education Bill, and in throwing out the Plural Voting Bill, the House of Lords had not rejected popular measures. The Government dared not go to the country on this question, because the country was against them. He supported the Amendment.

MR. MASTERMAN (West Ham, N.) said he did not want to follow the hon. Member who had just spoken with regard to the Education Bill, and he could not see any particular object in dealing any further with the Irish question, which had been absolutely and conclusively dealt with by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. Many hours had been wasted in reading quotations from the prelections of living and dead speakers in regard to the Irish question, although there had been no indication of what the Government proposals were to be. He therefore wished to turn his attention to the brilliant speech of the noble Lord who had introduced this Amendment. There were several minor points of criticism he wished to make. He must express a little surprise that the noble Lord had failed to notice that one object of the Parish Councils Act was to accomplish the regeneration of the rural population of the country, and that the House of Lords had removed from that Act those portions which would have made that regeneration possible. The subject he was most keenly interested in was that of social reform. He rejoiced at the enthusiasm for social reform which had been manifested in the speeches from the benches opposite; and he congratulated the noble Lord and those who acted with him on the sedulous manner in which that enthusiasm had been concealed during the last ten years. He did not want to use the *tu quoque* argument, but he had the strongest recollection of a time when in common with every young man he looked at both political parties with equal indifference. All through the years at the end of last century, when there were Budget surpluses, they looked to the Government with hope, then with hope deferred, and afterwards with utter despair of any particular problem of social reform being approached by the Government. For ten years there was inscribed on the roll of legislation only one first class measure of social reform, the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1887, and that was brought in and forced through Parliament by the right hon. the Member for West Birmingham, who was described by hon. Gentlemen opposite as an alien in the fold. The last general election was fought mainly on the question of free trade versus protection; but there was a stronger conviction amongst the working classes than even that; and that was that there was no hope of getting any great social reform from the Unionist Government. The result was that at the present moment the word "Imperialism" had no charm for the working classes of the country. A year ago he had no sort of feeling of indignation against the House of Lords. If the measure proposed by the Government in the King's Speech had then been proposed he would have been strongly against it; but now, if in his humble fashion he would support an immediate and drastic movement against the House of Lords, it was entirely due to a conviction, which experience had driven home, that in regard to social reform they could look for no better treatment from that Chamber in the future than in the past. The noble Lord had referred to the Plural Voting Bill. That had nothing to do with social reform; but the Education Bill was a great and far-reaching measure of social reform, for it had bound up with it the medical inspection of the children in the schools. Again, for hours and days they had worked in the House of Commons for the passing of the Provision of Meals for Children Bill, and at the last moment a small company in the House of Lords came down and struck out all the provisions which related to Scotland, in spite of the fact that the whole movement arose in Scotland and that the condition of the children in Edinburgh, Glasgow, and Dundee in regard to under-feeding was far worse than in most English towns. Then in regard to the Trade Disputes Bill, that was not let through by the House of Lords because they thought it was a just measure, not because they thought that the country was behind it, but because the late First Lord of the Treasury thought that the country was behind it. If the late First Lord of the Treasury had withdrawn his embargo the House of Lords would have had one of the happiest moments of their lives in massacring the measure. If the Leader of the Opposition would give an assurance that the hand of the House of Lords would be carefully lifted from any measure of social reform mentioned in the King's Speech, then, so far as he was concerned, the right hon. Gentleman would take the heart out of the opposition to the House of Lords. He was convinced that the best thing they could do for social reform was to back up the Government in securing that an equal measure of justice should be given to the legislation of a Liberal Government as to that of a Conservative Government. Might he say how much he rejoiced in the fact that the Government in the Speech from the Throne had declared their determination to continue the work of social reform concurrently with their campaign against the House of Lords? He referred to the paragraph in the King's Speech concerning the very kind of social reforms that the noble Lord advocated, and which he and those who agreed with him were glad to find would receive the heartiest support of the noble Lord and his colleagues — measures dealing with the housing of the people in the country districts and with small holdings. He hoped that the Bills would be such as would make a beneficial change in the rural condition of the country. If the Government would give an assurance that they intended to promote measures of social reform concurrently with their campaign against the House of Lords, and not unduly to lengthen that campaign, he thought the anxiety of the noble Lord opposite as to postponing social reform would be relieved, and with that assurance perhaps the noble Lord would withdraw his Amendment. It would be impertinent on his part to give any advice as to the policy which ought to be pursued by hon. Gentlemen opposite; but he respectfully asked them this question: They had lost the support of the working classes of this country. [OPPOSITION cries of "No."] They had lost it in the great working-class constituencies of the country, which had returned Liberal and Labour Members by large majorities. Did they think that the conduct of the present Government during the past twelve months had in any appreciable degree induced the working classes to give their support to the Unionist Party? The by-elections offered a very strong contrast to the usual falling away of a majority. He knew a considerable number of Conservative working men, but he had never yet found any working man with any kind of enthusiasm for the House of Lords as at present constituted. He warned the Tory Party that they would never get the working men to demonstrate in Trafalgar Square or Parliament Square in defence of the House of Lords. They heard last week a considerable amount of discussion about old-age pensions and the suggestion that old-age pensions might be taken out of the proceeds of a high protective tariff. He wished the Party opposite would formulate such a system, because he knew that, if they did, it would have a disastrous effect upon their fortunes in the country. [Laughter.] But these questions seemed to him to be less subjects for laughter than for tears, and he wished heartily to join in the eloquent appeal made last week by the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil in connection with the immediate pressing necessity of pressing forward social reforms. If their campaign against the Lords meant the abandonment of that policy, he for one would hesitate before he engaged in it at all. For fifteen years we had not had one single first-class measure of social reform, as he did not think the tiny measures of social reform connected with the housing of the working classes could be claimed within that description, and the country was hoping that this year there would be placed upon the Statute-book some of those measures mentioned in the King's Speech which were vital to the continued welfare of the country. There were the problem of the decaying village, the problem of unemployment, the problem of pauperism and of increasing pauperism, and other matters to be dealt with. But he was thankful to say that the Government in the gracious Speech from the Throne had outlined a programme which filled them with delight, and if they would only pursue the policy there indicated concurrently with the policy of dealing with the House of Lords they would receive such support as few Governments had received.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said he did not propose to follow the hon. Member for North West Ham into a discussion of what did and what did not, in the opinion of one side of the House or the other, constitute social reform; but so far as he could gather the hon. Gentleman had invited them to enter into a sort of Dutch auction of reforms. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had denied that the policy which the Government was pursuing was in any sense a revolutionary one in regard to Ireland, but the right hon Gentleman did not deny that the new Government measures for that country were not intended to help forward Home Rule later on. It was a step in advance, and, although it might only be a little step, that consideration did not meet the objection taken by his noble friend, which had reference, not to the size of the step, but to the taking of any step of that character at all. He and his friends objected not only to the big hole for the cat but also to the little hole for the kitten. The Bill which the Government proposed to bring forward would provoke a large struggle and must therefore take up time which ought to be devoted to measures of social reform such as those to which the hon. Member for North West Ham had alluded. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the second part of the charge was that they were going to make great revolutionary changes in the relations between the two Houses, and he admitted that they were going to do so, and said it was a very good thing to do. They on that side had great difficulty in criticising the proposed action of the Government in the matter, because they were entirely in the dark as to the method by which they proposed to achieve that result. He doubted whether the Government were in possession of that information themselves. What was there in the political situation which called for immediate action in this matter? Last spring the Government came into office with what they were fond of calling a blank cheque from the electorate. He was rather sceptical about that, but let it be supposed that they came in with a whole book of blank cheques. They began to fill up those blank cheques and to present them in another place for payment. A very large number were honoured. One, the Aliens Bill, the Government quite accidentally omitted to endorse and it was returned to them. He had not heard that the Government showed any signs of endorsing it, and he thought it would be interesting if they had a statement from the Government on the subject. Two other Bills, the Education Bill and the Plural Voting Bill, were regarded as making too large a draft upon the confidence of the electors and were returned marked "Refer to drawer." Was there anything unbusinesslike about that? On the contrary it was the only businesslike thing to do. Had the Government shown any signs of "Referring to drawer"? If the Government really believed that the country desired these two cheques to be honoured why did they not consult the drawer? The complaint of the hon. Member for North West Ham was that the House of Lords did not throw out the Trade Disputes Bill. The hon. Member said that they ought not to have passed the Trade Disputes Bill, because they did not believe in it. That was the gospel of the Second Chamber according to the hon. Member for North West Ham, but it was not a correct statement of that gospel.

MR. MASTERMAN said his point was that the reason why the House of Lords passed the Trade Disputes Bill was not that they agreed with it, but that the Leader of the Opposition supported it.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON said he would not argue the point further with the hon. Gentleman. The country relied upon the House of Lords to give a check to measures of an objectionable character, and when, as was suggested should be done in this case, the cheques had been referred to drawer, there was not a case in history in which, if the country approved the draft, they had not passed the measure in question. Instead of referring the matter to the country, however, the members of the Government, under the leadership of the President of the Board of Trade, were going about the country blowing "a blast of the trumpet against the monstrous regiment" of Peers and calling upon the people to make an attack upon what was described recently as "the walls of Jericho." If the walls of Jericho were to go down, the Government had forgotten the necessary preliminaries—they had not been round the walls seven times, they had only been round once, and then they rode most of the way in private Members' chariots. The Government must remember that after all the trumpet blowing the walls of Jericho remained standing, and did not fall down until the people shouted with a great shout. If the Government would call on the people, and if all the people then shouted with a great shout, he did not believe even the lordly citizens of Jericho would regret the ruin of its walls. But if the Government neither went on with their marching nor called upon the people to shout, but merely stood still blowing the trumpet, then they would be open to the bitterest charge that could be brought against any Government, viz, that they preferred the cause of Party to the cause of the people.

MR. PAUL (Northampton) said he doubted whether either the noble

Lord or the right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer had been convinced by their own arguments. It must have been present to the minds of both that, whereas a Liberal Government had very great difficulty in getting measures through the House of Lords, that difficulty entirely disappeared when a Conservative Government came into office. He called special attention to the Reform Act of 1867, a purely political measure that had never been before the country, an Act which introduced household suffrage, but, having been introduced by a Conservative Government, it passed into law practically without Amendment. The Leader of the Opposition at the close of the previous session called in the older House to redress the balance of the new. He himself was not prepared to accept the suggestions which had been made, certainly not the referendum which would result in the abolition of the House of Commons instead of the House of Lords, and he certainly was not prepared to agree to any measure for making another place more distinguished and more decorous, and which would be analagous to substituting the Athenæum for the Carlton. But the question that he wished to ask and answer if he could was, "From whom has the revolutionary change come?"—because he did not deny that there was a revolutionary change. He made bold to say that not within living memory had the Lords claimed to make such bold, fear-reaching, comprehensive changes in the conditions under which public money should be voted and distributed as they made in connection with the Education Bill of last year. The last occasion upon which the Lords threw out a Money Bill was when they so dealt with the measure for the repeal of the paper duty in 1860. Then the House of Commons was invited to pass three Resolutions defining its own powers over public money. For 230 years it had been an elementary part of the Constitution that the right of collecting and distributing public funds belonged to the House of Commons alone, and that right was reaffirmed in 1860. Next year Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, made a change in the form of the Finance Act by putting all the taxes into a single Bill. He had only one precedent for that, but that was the precedent of no less a man than William Pitt. Objection was taken to that procedure by that staunch Conservative Mr. Newdigate, but on the division Mr. Newdigate was left in a very small minority. The change was approved by the House. The majority of Lord Palmerston's Government at that time was fifteen, and on the Third Reading of this Finance Bill it fell to nine. When that financial measure went to the Lords it passed unanimously, the fourteenth Earl Derby, "the Rupert of debate," who had been thrice Prime Minister, refusing to take the responsibility of advising the Peers to stand up against the taxing rights of the House of Commons. What control of the public purse had the House of Commons if the Lords could say, "You may raise the money, but we shall spend it," or rather, "We shall say how public money is to be spent, and you may find out for yourselves how to get it"? That was not real control of the purse; it was only an imperfect and semi-control. It was not the House of Commons, therefore, that had provoked or challenged the constitutional conflict in which they were unhappily engaged.

*MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said it was remarkable that all the speakers on the Liberal side of the House had avoided direct reference to the principal question at issue. The Chancellor of the Exchequer, who spoke first, had gone to great pains to justify his own position and that of his colleagues upon the question of Home Rule. But when he came to the question of the House of Lords, and the House thought he was going to deal with the Amendment of his noble friend, he gave them only a few words, it would be untrue to say a few sentences. The right hon. Gentleman practically said, "We are going to deal with the House of Lords, and a good job too," but made no reply whatever to the speech of his noble friend. The next speaker from those benches, the hon. Member for East Toxteth, regaled the House with an interesting account, no doubt true, of how Chinamen caught fish with cormorants; and that was about all he did say. The hon. Member for West Ham had given his own views as to what the policy of social reform ought to be or ought not to be, but had said very little about the House of Lords. In the course of his speech the hon. Member had made one or two rather interesting admissions. He told the House, for one thing, that the Government had no mandate to deal with the Lords. He did not think much of mandates, and therefore would not say much about this point, but it was a great admission to have from a Party which talked a good deal about mandates. The hon. Member went on to say, as far as he understood him, that the blame for what happened at the end of last year rested, not with the House of Lords, whom they thought his Party were attacking so strongly, but with the Leader of the Opposition. They were glad to know that the assault which was adumbrated in the Speech from the Throne was not going to be made against the House of Lords; though why Ministers should put it in that way he failed to understand, if the attack was only going to be made on his right hon. friend. The only attack of any shape or form upon the House of Lords came from the hon. Member for South Donegal, who had given the House a rather remarkable historical speech. He began by regretting that his own child—his own Amendment—was not before the House. His own Amendment was a direct attack upon what he called the accident of birth, otherwise the hereditary principle. He then went on in rather a remarkable manner to talk of the late Lord Shaftesbury's utterances in the House of Lords. He told them of how Lord Shaftesbury had said that the House of Lords was insensible to feeling, and so on. But the notable fact about that was that Lord Shaftesbury made those utterances at a time when for half a century there had been a steady stream of Liberal Peers created, which had flooded the House of Lords. At that time, twenty-five years ago, by far the greater part of the Upper Chamber was composed of the holders of Peerages which had been created by the Liberal Party. The hon. Member had then made an extraordinary statement, saying there had been no collision between the two Houses until the year 1882. He (Mr. Courthope) had always thought there was considerable collision in 1649, when the House of Lords was abolished for a short time, until Cromwell found that government without a House of Lords was an impossibility. At the end of eight years he tried to create a popular House of Lords. This popular House of Lords was such a failure that it became the laughing stock of the whole country, and they had to go back to practically the same system as that which obtained to-day. The hon. Member for South Donegal had also told them that a Peer's right to sit in the 17th century depended entirely on the writ of summons. That he believed was quite true; but he went on to destroy his own argument, by explaining that the prerogative had been restricted and hedged about by statutes passed by both Houses. Surely neither he nor anyone else would suggest that the Ministry could restrict the prerogative of the Crown at one moment and extend it again at another to suit their own Party convenience, but that was what it would come to. They were also told by some hon. Gentlemen that the unrestricted prerogative was a power for evil. He only hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer on reading the lengthy memorandum which had been promised on that subject would take notice of this point and bear it in mind when any attack was made. The hon. and learned Member then gave an account of the Irish mob which invaded the Irish House of Lords, turned out the Members, and placed an old hag on the Woolsack, and expressed a wish that the people would behave in the same disgraceful way to-day. These were strange words from a prominent advocate of Home Rule, who wished to be trusted to govern Ireland. He had said a few moments ago that a very large proportion of the House of Lords, up to about twenty-five years since, had been created by Liberal Administrations. The same remark applied to-day, though not quite to the same extent; and they naturally asked themselves why was it that all these Liberal Peers, or at all events the majority of them, so rapidly became Conservative? Did they pay them so poor a compliment as to suggest that, having got into the House of Lords, they wished to keep the veto which that House had over the House of Commons? He did not think that would be suggested for one moment. The flower of the Liberal Party—over 200 of their best men during the last sixty years—had been sent to that House. He did not think it would be suggested that these men were actuated by selfish

Mr. Courthope.

motives in crossing the floor. He honestly believed that, once removed from the noise and turmoil of Party platforms and the excitement of general elections, they were able to look at the intrinsic value of a measure from an unprejudiced point of view, and then they recognised that their policy was to preserve what was good in our system and our institutions, and to reform in a temperate, wise, and statesmanlike manner what was bad. That explained their action, not only in the far past, but also he thought last year. He did not think it would be denied by any serious thinking person that the people of this country really desired that there should be definite religious instruction given to the children, quite apart from the good will of a local education authority, or the teacher, the parent, or the child itself, and that the parents should have a voice in the teaching of their children. The Lords' Amendments to the Education Bill had secured these two points. He believed all impartial people—he would not say hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House, because they were no doubt disappointed at the failure of a Party measure—but all impartial people would agree that any reform in our Parliamentary system should deal with the whole and not a mere section of our electoral system. And it was because they thought, and he believed rightly, that all that was best in the wishes of the people of this country was behind them, that the House of Lords amended the Education Bill and threw out the Plural Voting Bill. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had said that the work of social reform would not be delayed; but during this debate he had stated that some social reforms could not be undertaken owing to their great cost. He would mention old-age pensions as an instance. These reforms were too costly for our existing basis of taxation. His Majesty's Ministers would employ their time—and they would not have too much time—better in widening the basis of taxation with a view to introducing sound social reforms than in making what he believed would be a useless, fruitless, and discreditable attack on the House of Lords.

*MR. ADKINS (Lancashire, Middleton) said that from the speeches which had been made on the Opposition side of the House there had been a great omission. The Amendment of the noble Lord, which in form attacked a paragraph of the gracious Speech from the Throne, was in substance a defence of another place and was directed to the aggressive action adumbrated by His Majesty's Government; yet they had waited in vain to hear from Gentlemen on the other side any suggestion that the recent action of the House of Lords had been in accordance with constitutional precedents, or that there was any action to be compared with it in the history of the last seventy years. His hon. friend the Member for Northampton had pointed out with great force how the House of Lords had been encroaching on the historic powers of the House of Commons with regard to finance. He would respectfully observe that the House of Lords was not only encroaching on the domain of finance, but was inventing new methods of dealing with legislation sent from this House. Those methods were absolutely without precedent. He hoped some Member of the Opposition would state whether there had ever before been a case where a Bill of the first magnitude, passed in the first session of a new Parliament by huge majorities which increased with every stage of the Bill, had been rejected by the other House of Parliament in the way in which the Education Bill was rejected last winter. Hon. Members who were familiar with political history since the great Reform Bill would know that the action of the House of Lords on previous occasions had destroyed or eviscerated Liberal legislation, but that power had invariably been exercised when the majorities in the House of Commons were small, and when they had not been of so important and unusual a character as were the majorities last autumn, or when there had been a long interval between the polling of the constituencies and the introduction of the Bill. In the case of the Education Bill they had a measure supported by a surprising majority both in size and in character. A majority of English, of Scotch, of Welsh, and of Irish Members, a majority of the county representatives and a majority of borough representatives. Therefore it was the expression, to a degree unique in recent history, of the deliberate and overwhelming opinion of a popular House of Commons. That measure, so supported, having been treated as it was last autumn, they who supported the Government in taking steps to alter such a condition of things were not revolutionaries; they were maintaining the Constitution in regard to the due proportion of its component parts, and they were opposing such an alteration of those component parts as was indicated by the recent action of the other Chamber. He hoped they might be told by some member of the Opposition, before the debate closed, what precedent there was for allowing the House of Lords to dictate when there should be a dissolution. He was not aware of any instance since the rejection of Fox's India Bill in 1784 where the action of the House of Lords had led to a dissolution; therefore, in supporting the Government they were supporting all that was most conservative in the Constitution of the country, as well as that which was practically necessary if the wishes of the people were to be carried out. They did not under-rate the gravity of the crisis nor the difficulty of the situation. However they might regret being turned aside, for the moment, from that policy of social reform which was often talked about on the other side of the House and which had been begun by the present Government, he thought that this and other debates would show throughout the country, if indeed the country did not know it now, that there was no guarantee for social reform or for those political alterations on which the majority of the country had set their heart until this obstacle was modified, and until that subordination of the other Chamber to the House of Commons, which had existed unbroken for seventy-five years, was restored by action at once conservative and progressive.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he desired at the outset to remind the hon. Member for Middleton that the House of Lords did not reject the Education Bill; practically they only made two Amendments in it. The first Amendment was that religious teaching was to be given every day for a certain time in the school, and the second was that the country districts should be put upon the same footing as the urban districts. Those were the only two Amendments, and he was surprised that the hon. Member opposite should get up and say that the Second Chamber had no right to make two alterations of that kind in a Bill. The hon. Member had also said that there was a mandate from the people for the Education Bill, and that they wished the Bill to be passed in the form in which it left the House of Commons. If that was the case why did not the Government appeal to the country? If the country was so anxious to have the Education Bill there was a very simple method by which the Government could have obtained the opinion of the country on the subject. If they had appealed to the country and received a real mandate they would have had some grounds for taking exception to the action of the House of Lords if they attempted to alter the Bill a second time. The hon. Member for Middleton had asked if there was any example of the House of Lords having altered an important measure in the first session of a new Parliament. He would give such an example. In 1903 the House of Lords rejected the Home Rule Bill.

MR. ADKINS said what he asked was whether there was any precedent for the House of Lords rejecting a first-class measure in the first session of a new Parliament when it had been passed by increasing majorities.

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said he did not know whether the hon. Member opposite considered the Home Rule Bill a measure of first-class importance or not. Personally he should think it was a third-class measure; at any rate the Home Rule Bill was rejected by the Lords in 1893. He would remind the House that the majorities on the Education Bill varied very much, and on one particular occasion there was a very great drop in the majority upon a religious question. The hon. Member was wrong in saying that the majorities on the Education Bill were always increasing. He had the privilege of being a Member of the House of Commons in 1893, when he listened to exactly the same kind of speeches about the House of Lords as those which were being made at the present time. It had been said that it was not for the House of Lords to dictate the time when a dissolution should take place. Nobody had ever said it was. What they did say was that if the Government did not believe the decision of the House of Lords to be agreeable to the country, they could go to the country and find out. He had listened with much interest to the able speech of the noble Lord the Member for South Kensington in introducing this Amendment, and he wondered at the time how the Chancellor of the Exchequer could possibly answer what seemed to him to be unanswerable arguments. The right hon Gentleman had devoted his arguments practically to two points only, and the greater part of his speech dealt with the Home Rule question. The Chancellor of the Exchequer was extremely angry about what he called the slander cast by his noble friend upon the Government in charging them with obtaining their position by false pretences. He had also said that if a Home Rule Bill was introduced into this Parliament he should resign his position in the Government and vote against it. The right hon. Gentleman had also quoted from a speech of his own to the effect that if they could not get their object by the straight path, they should try to obtain it by some other path; in fact, he had argued that they must get it by a roundabout way. Then the right hon. Gentleman had said equally fervently, "I will not go back from the opinion which I expressed some two or three years ago." He could fancy a Member of the Government going down to an English constituency, and saying that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had declared that he would resign his seat if a Home Rule Bill was brought in. Did they think the Government was going to bring in a Home Rule Bill after that statement? No, they would declare that Home Rule was dead. On the other hand, hon. Members would go back to Ireland and say that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had declared that if he could not get Home Rule by the straight path he would achieve it by a roundabout way. The Irish constituencies would be told not to be discouraged, because all the members of the present Government were in favour of Home Rule which they were going to get by a flank attack. It was not for him to say anything about false pretences, but the statements made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer were most extraordinary, and he did not think they would appeal to any fair-minded Englishmen. He thought, under the circumstances, it was quite open to his noble friend to repeat the charge that right hon. Gentlemen opposite were holding their positions by false pretences. The hon. Member for North West Ham had said that a dissolution must come soon. No doubt a good many hon. Members would be very glad if that view proved well-founded. All the House of Lords wanted was to ascertain the opinion of the country. The real point at issue was whether or not the House of Lords represented the opinion of the country in the action they had taken. ["Oh, oh!"] Had the House of Lords interfered with the will of the people or had it not? The only way to ascertain was to go to the country. It was not for him to say that the Education Bill did not represent the desires and wishes of the people of this country. As far as he could judge from Conservative electors the Education Bill did not represent those desires. He would quote as his authority upon this point the President of the Board of Trade who, in a speech at Zion Chapel, Llanelly, at the end of September last, said that—

> "The Plural Voting Bill, which put every man on the basis of absolute equality so far as voting power was concerned, had passed the Second Reading, and they meant to pass the Third Reading and send it up to the House of Lords, and then something would happen."

Well, something did happen.

MR. PATRICK WHITE (Meath, N.) called attention to the fact that there were not forty Members present. House counted; and, forty Members being found present—

SIR FREDERICK BANBURY said the President of the Board of Trade went on to say that he admitted that the Education Bill did not satisfy everybody in the country. What happened to the Education Bill when it went to the House of Lords? The Bill was not rejected, but slight alterations were made in it. With regard to the Plural Voting Bill, the quotation he had made from the speech of the President of the Board of Trade showed what its real object was. That Bill was sent up to the House of Lords it being known they would reject it, so that there might be a cry on which the Radicals could go to the country. He had addressed a few meetings in the last two weeks in the country, and he had never met anybody who cared twopence for the Plural Voting Bill. ["Oh!"] He did not deny that some Radical Members mentioned the Plural

Voting Bill during the general election, but to suppose that the country gave a mandate to deprive certain people of their votes—which was all the Bill would have done—was absolutely absurd. The Plural Voting Bill was introduced solely for the purpose of adding to the Ministerial majority. An hon. Member had admitted that it would be very useful at by-elections. Surely a Second Chamber was entitled to throw out a Bill which was described as one which would be useful at by-elections to the Party in power. He did not believe there would be a serious attack on the House of Lords at all. The attack had been made during the recess in order to get up some cry on which eventually the Party opposite could go to the country. They knew it was easy enough to say that the House of Lords ought to be abolished, but they also knew perfectly well that they could not do it except by doing as Cromwell did and having soldiers in. They had got to abolish both Chambers, and the Crown and Constitution, and then proceed to erect another Chamber which, apparently, according to hon. Gentlemen opposite, was to give effect to the chance will of the majority. In the last fifteen or sixteen years the constituencies had varied in the most extraordinary manner. In 1892 they returned a Liberal majority, in 1895 and 1900 they returned Unionist majorities, and in 1906 they returned a Liberal majority. With such fluctuations in the country there must be a Second Chamber or the Referendum. Hon. Gentlemen opposite had been going about the country speaking about the large crop of legislation last year, and also about the way in which the House of Lords had obstructed legislation. Both statements could not be correct. He personally hoped that at the dissolution, which could not be far distant, the electors would say that they would not stand for a moment the idea that any number of men who happened to sit on the Treasury Bench should revolutionise the Constitution because they had been returned for one, or, it might be, two or three particular objects. If they did assent to that he and his friends must submit, but it would be an evil day for the country.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton) said the noble Lord who moved the Amendment had complained that the Government had stayed their hand in regard to social reform. This caused the noble Lord much grief, for, he said, social reform was far more important than either the reform of the House of Lords or the granting of Home Rule. Many Members of the House would welcome the noble Lord as a recruit to the cause of social reform, and they would be glad of his help in regard to measures for the betterment of the condition of the people. Social reform would cost something, and the basis of taxation would have to be broadened. Would the noble Lord support the Government in regard to a graduated income-tax so as to provide a scheme of old-age pensions? Would those who were in favour of tariff reform as a solution of the problem of old-age pensions pay their quota out of the superabundant wealth which they got out of the country at the present time? He hoped the Chancellor of the Exchequer would remember the expressions of good will which had fallen from Members of the Opposition as to social reform. He judged men by their deeds and not by their words. The present Government had given some indication of a desire for social reform. Last session a Bill was introduced to provide for the feeding of school children. That Bill, day after day, was opposed by the Opposition. They admitted that there was an evil in connection with the under-feeding of children, but they could only oppose the measure because it was Socialism. When the Bill went to another place it was mutilated by noble Lords, and yet they were told that their supporters in this House were in favour of social reform. In another place Scotland was omitted from the operation of that Bill. That was done not because there was no need for the Bill in Glasgow, Aberdeen, and Dundee, but he supposed it was because the measure was Socialism. He did not know whether the same cry would be raised with regard to old-age pensions. The Chancellor of the Exchequer's objection to an old-age pension scheme was that he had not got the money. He did not think the resources of taxation were exhausted, and, having regard to the figures published by the Board of Trade relative to the abounding wealth of the country, he did not think there ever was in our commercial history a more opportune time than the present for initiating such a scheme. He believed that the

Sir Frederick Banbury.

taxation of the enormous incomes which were drawn at the present time would provide more than enough money to give a measure of relief to the veterans who were in the workhouses or starving outside. What was the noble Lord's idea of social reform? He took it that the noble Lord would include old-age pensions, better housing of the people, cheaper means of transit. If he accepted that programme he would be welcomed by every social reformer in the House. There were many sources of revenue at present untaxed, and he would ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer to widen the basis of taxation so that the social reforms which were urgently desired by right hon. and hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition benches might be carried into effect. But he doubted whether the Gentlemen who mutilated the Provision of Meals Bill would pass an Old-Age Pensions Bill. He looked upon the House of Lords as the most cowardly assembly in this or any other country—cowardly, because of their action in reference to the legislation sent up to them last session. The Trade Disputes Bill was described by the noble Lord who occupied the position of Lord Chancellor in the last Administration as a wicked and vicious Bill which would overthrow justice, and yet the House of Lords accepted the measure. Why? Because the Leader of the Conservative Party in that place said that if there was to be a struggle they must select the ground most favourable to themselves. If that was the function of a revisory Chamber, then they had no regard for the well-being of the industrial classes. The House of Lords had outlived their usefulness, and the sooner they were abolished the better it would be for the people of this country.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.) said that if they looked at this question from the purely Party point of view hon. Members on the Opposition benches had no reason to complain of the predilection shown by the Government for revolutionary changes. As a Party, Unionists stood to gain from their infatuation. One would have thought that the Radical Party would have learned something during their long sojourn in the political wilderness—broken only by a brief interval of fruitless ploughing of the sands. But apparently they had gained no wisdom in their wanderings. No sooner had they floated themselves into power, on a flood of misrepresentation, than the old desire for destruction manifested itself strong as ever. Last session it was the Church against which their blows were directed. This year it was the other House of Parliament; and their campaign against the Second Chamber was simply intended to cover an insidious attempt to undermine the Union and destroy the integrity of the United Kingdom. What the Party opposite seemed to be incapable of appreciating was the rooted dislike in the minds of the great majority of the British people of anything which had the appearance of revolution. The electors who were not allied to either of the political Parties were responsible for putting the present Government into office. They were the people who brought about the swing of the pendulum in politics. They had no scruple in toppling over a Government on the principle of "giving the other side a chance." But what the Radical Party had failed to understand was that this indeterminate but influential section of the electorate was as strongly opposed as the highest Tory amongst them to any tinkering with the Constitution. As a representative of an Irish constituency he might be permitted to express regret that the great constitutional issues which the Government were determined to raise would necessarily hinder the work of social amelioration which had been going on steadily in Ireland during the last twenty years of Unionist Government. Although in some respects it could not be denied that Ireland was in a backward state in comparison with the rest of the United Kingdom, that could not be properly ascribed to the form of Constitution under which the country was governed. If there were any grounds for that idea they would expect to find that the whole of Ireland was equally unprosperous. It was obvious that that was not the case. The northern province had had no special privilege under the Union. And yet the remarkable development of Ulster was one of the features of the nineteenth century. It was not necessary to go far to seek the explanation of that progress. The prosperity of the north-east had been the result of the energy and thrift of the people. And if the rest of the Irish people had placed less reliance on political agitators and depended more on their own exertions there could be no doubt that the state of Ireland as a whole would have been vastly better than it was to-day. It was one of the most hopeful signs for the future of Ireland that this fact was becoming recognised. During the last few years there had been an uprising of a new spirit among the Irish people which was certainly a most hopeful augury for the future of Ireland—if only it could be kept free from political disturbance. However this beneficial change had arisen, there could be no question that the progress of the movement was largely due to the great number of remedial measures which had been passed by the Imperial Parliament under the guidance of Unionist statesmen during the past twenty years. The Government had advanced the preposterous claim that their policy of devolution was based upon a Unionist foundation. Nothing could be further from the facts. If they were really anxious to benefit by the experience of their predecessors and desired only the good of the country they would try to help and not to hinder the social and industrial developments which were now proceeding so successfully in Ireland. The constitutional struggle which they seemed determined to bring about was certain to interrupt the progress of land purchase. It would also throw obstacles in the way of agricultural and industrial development. It would hinder any improvement in primary education. Ireland needed, above all things, peaceful co-operation in industrial matters. The Government proposed to introduce political conflict. By legislative changes which they intended to propose they would inevitably swamp all social and industrial progress under a flood of political agitation. Therefore, although he felt that the course taken by the Government was likely to discredit them in the country, as an Irish Member he could not refrain from expressing his regret that the peace and progress of Ireland were to be disturbed and hindered by the grave constitutional issues which were involved in the policy the Government had announced.

*Mr. FENWICK (Northumberland, Wansbeck) said that, holding the opinion which he did respecting the debates on the Address, he ought to apologise for intervening at all. He thought that during the twenty-one years he had been in the House he had not spoken six times on the Address. He looked upon the debates, excepting it were a first class vote of censure brought by the Opposition, as a wilful and deliberate waste of time, and during the whole of his Parliamentary experience he had never listened to a debate on the Address which was more of a hollow sham and fraud than this one. No one could find any fault either with the tone or the temper displayed by the noble Lord in introducing the Amendment, but for the life of him he was unable to understand from whence had sprung this new-born zeal for social reform on the part of the noble Lord and his Party. He remembered the election of 1895, which was won by the Conservatives on a programme of wholesale social reforms, but in the succeeding twelve years in which they held office the Unionists made no attempt to give effect to the major portion of that programme. They had no fears for the House of Lords, and the House of Lords had no terrors for them. The House of Lords was always quiescent during the existence of a Tory Ministry. It was like a spent volcano. It was only when a Liberal Ministry came into office that the House of Lords and the Tory Party went in for social reforms. When a noble Lord came down to the House last session to vote against the Education Bill, he was arrested by one of the attendants, and when he explained that he was a Peer he was told he was going into the wrong shop. The noble Lord did not know the way into his own Chamber. It was only when an active Reform Government was in office that they had any knowledge whatever of the existence of a House of Lords. Those who took part in the election of 1895 knew how the Party now in opposition won that election on a programme of wholesale social reform, and not the least taking item in their programme was old-age pensions. Like a message from Mars they sprang that question upon the gullibility of the English elector, and as to talking about the present Government holding their position under false pretences, he would retort that there never was a truer case of holding a position under false pretences than was furnished by the case of the Conservative Government of

1895, who remained in office for years without doing anything to carry out their pledges. They put forward before the country this question of old-age pensions, and the working men and their wives and families were glad to jump at the idea, although many of them regarded the proposal with some suspicion and thought that perhaps it was a bait to catch their votes. Some of them indeed wrote to Lord Salisbury and asked him whether the social programme of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had his support, and he replied—

> "I have said again and again that the Member for West Birmingham am is our spokesman on all such questions."

What could be more natural that on such a declaration being received from Lord Salisbury, the working men should rally to the Conservative cause, knowing that if they had a majority in this House, Lord Salisbury in another place was monarch of all he surveyed, with a permanent majority, and that they had only to give the Government a majority and then they were sure to have such legislation carried in another place? What followed? The Conservative Government came into office with a majority of 152 behind it, pledged to social reform, and in the first four years they were in office, thanks to the Finance Bill of Sir W. Harcourt they had surpluses amounting in the aggregate to £9,000,000. That was before we entered upon the wicked war in South Africa. With these handsome surpluses extending over four years one would have thought that the Government would have considered that as a splendid sum with which at all events to begin to redeem their pledges as to old age pensions. But no, these surpluses were not given to the industrial classes, but were used to safe-guard the position of their own friends. After the cry of old-age pensions had fulfilled its mission of placing the Tory Party in office, it "vanished like the baseless fabric of a dream." He remembered that in 1894 a Royal Commission, of which the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham was a member, was sitting on this subject, and before that Commission made its Report that right hon. Gentleman came down to this House and voted for the Second Reading of a Bill introduced by a private Member in regard to old-age pensions. So eager were they that they could not wait for the Report of the Royal Commission; but now the question had passed away altogether from their purview. He did not believe that the Constitutional questions which the Government intended to raise between this and the other House would impede the progress of social legislation, but that depended upon the point of view from which one looked at the question. He was not merely concerned with the legislation foreshadowed in the Speech from the Throne. He did not believe that there must be a general election immediately. He did not believe that hon. Gentlemen opposite wanted it. General elections cost too much money, and he did not think that they would like to have them forced upon them every six months. The Government had much more social legislation to introduce than that which was foreshadowed in the King's Speech, and it would be just as well in his judgment that they should at the very beginning sharpen and tighten up the machine by which it was to be carried. When he was a coal miner he always thought that he could produce more coal with his tools well sharpened, and he thought the Government would make much more progress if they came to a real understanding of what the relations of this House were to be with the Members of the gilded Chamber. They had measures of far-reaching importance to come before them before this Parliament came to an end. For instance, there was the question of land reform. They could not deal with the questions of providing work for the unemployed, of the housing of the working classes, and many others unless they were given easier access to the land than they had to-day. They might talk until they were black in the face about these reforms, but they would not accomplish anything unless the question of the land was dealt with, because the base of all human activities rested upon the land. The questions of how they were to feed their people, clothe their people, house them, or provide employment for them—all these great social problems carried them back to the land as the bed rock from which they must start before they could make any progress, and if they could have this question of what ought to be the true relationship between this and the other House settled, they would make much greater progress in regard to social reform than they were likely to do under present conditions. The fear which had been raised about Home Rule for Ireland had no terrors for him, because he fought his first election in 1885 as a Home Ruler, at a time when the Nationalist vote was diverted by official order from men like himself, the supporters of Home Rule, to right hon. Gentlemen opposite. The Nationalist circular sent out in 1885, called upon every Nationalist and Irishman to vote against the Liberal and even against the Labour Party, and to vote for the men who had done their best to block the achievement of national aspirations. He said therefore that the Home Rule bogey had no terrors for him, and if it could not be accomplished at one fell swoop he was prepared to take it by easy stages, because he believed that each stage that they took would give them a vantage ground from which they could go on until they had realised the just and legitimate aspirations of the Irish people. He would just say one word more with respect to the constitutional crisis that had arisen between the two Houses of Parliament. He had never been persuaded of the absolute necessity of a second Chamber. That was by the way; but if we were to have a second Chamber he thought it would be universally admitted that it could not continue to exist as at present constituted. The House of Lords, as at present constituted, was simply another wing of the Conservative Party, and he asked any fair-minded right hon. or hon. Gentlemen opposite whether if their Party were in the place of supporters of the Government, with such an overwhelming majority behind them as the present one, and they found a House of Lords so constituted that there was in it a large majority of their political opponents, they would be satisfied with the position. He was perfectly sure that they would not, and it ought not to be possible for any Leader of the Tory Party, sitting in this House, to dictate to another place and say, "You must accept or reject this measure," as was the case in the Trade Disputes Bill. [Dissent.] Hon. Members need not shake their heads at him. He was present in this House and knew all that took place on the Trade Disputes Bill. He remembered distinctly that the late Prime Minister voted against the four operative clauses of the Bill, and on the Third Reading declared that it must be accepted. If, as the right hon. Gentleman had said, the Bill was so bad in all its operative sections, how could the whole be regarded as acceptable? The Bill went to another place and it was described there by the Conservative Party as disgraceful, tyrannical, unjust, and un-English, but it was said that it must be accepted, and they must not amend it or substitute another Bill for it. And why? Because the Leader of the Tory Party in this House had declared that the Bill must be accepted. [Cries of "Oh."] At all events that was his opinion, and it was capable of being defended. No one could pretend that the relationship between the two Houses should be permitted to go on as at present. The will of the people must in some way or another become the law of the land. What was the use of going through the turmoil of a general election to ascertain the will of the people, if that will, when declared, was not to become the law of the land? Why were they put to this great expense and the industry of the country and the channels of commercial intercourse interfered with in order to ascertain the will of the people, if it was not intended that the will of the people when ascertained should prevail? He welcomed this contest between the two Houses, and he could only assure the Government that if they dealt in a thoroughgoing way with the question they would have the support of the country. No greater calamity could befall the Government than that it should show any want of thoroughness or backbone in dealing with social questions as a whole, or with the House of Lords in particular.

*Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said he would not presume to attempt to answer any of the questions which the hon. Member who had just sat down had put to the Unionist side of the House. He did not pretend to have any special knowledge of the constitutional relationship between the two Houses, but he could not see in the arguments put by hon. Members opposite any suggestion that social reforms had been retarded by the other House; indeed, two hon. Members had based their attack on the House of Lords on the ground that that House had allowed measures of social reform to pass. So far, however, as the fight against the House of Lords was concerned he did not consider it was seriously intended, or that it would ever come before this or the other House in any practical shape. He desired to deal with a matter far more serious—the utterances which had fallen from Ministers since they had come into power. He congratulated the noble Lord on having drawn from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the statements that right hon. Gentleman had made, whether they were welcomed or whether they gave umbrage to any particular section, because they, at all events, made clear the issue before the House with regard to the second great measure of the Government. He alluded to the measure for Home Rule for Ireland or devolution. Those utterances certainly allowed the House to see more clearly what the views of Ministers were on this point. He noticed that the appeals to-day of the right hon. Gentleman were based on speeches he had made during the course of the general election, he presumed to his constituents, and he noticed that the right hon. Gentleman had said that all that the Government desired to do at the present time could be carried out peaceably and easily if it were not for a mere knot of irreconcilables. He (Captain Craig) presumed that among those he must number himself, for the reason that he presumed the right hon. Gentleman referred to those Members who represented Unionist constituencies in Ireland. The Unionist Members for Ireland had all had to fight hard for their seats. The conditions of an election in Ireland were much the same as those in England, where the opponents of the Unionists tried as much as possible to set aside the question of Home Rule, and they quoted right hon. Members opposite as not being in favour of that policy. He believed he was right in saying that among the names mentioned as being of the older school of Liberals were those of the Minister for War, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. These men were held up in Ireland as a guarantee that the Ministry then being formed was not a Home Rule or a Devolution Ministry. Yet they had heard the Chancellor of the Exchequer declare that the Ulster irreconcilables were the only people who stood in his way. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had pointed to the Irish Nationalist Benches, and had said in effect, if not in actual words: "Take what you can get, no matter how small, because you have the assurance of the Prime Minister and the Chief Secretary for Ireland, who are Home Rulers, that whatever is given is a step towards the larger policy of Home Rule." Whatever measure, then, was introduced by the Chief Secretary, they might take as the preamble of a Bill which meant Home Rule in the end. That very invitation to the Members who represented Home Rule constituencies in Ireland was sufficient excuse for Unionists to go back to Ireland and say that their fears were justified, that this was a Home Rule Government or at least a Government prepared to learn the lesson of Home Rule, and to give it to Ireland in the long run. They could go back to their constituencies and say that one of the first actions of the Government was to bring forward a policy which Unionist Members dreaded, not in any personal narrow sense, but because it would set back the progress of Ireland, and interfere with the development proceeding on lines laid down by the Unionist Government. Now the cry of Home Rule had been started by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the whole of the Irish Unionists —who represented public opinion in Ireland, and were not merely nominated by a clerical class—would take up the challenge. He could only say most emphatically that the whole power of the Unionist Party and the Orange organisation would be used to defeat the policy of the Government.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said he had listened very attentively both to the speech of the mover of the Amendment, and also to the speech of his seconder. He had noticed with considerable surprise the apparent anxiety of the noble Lord about the cause of social reform. Like his hon. friend the Member for Wansbeck he had begun to wonder where this new-found zeal of the noble Earl had come from. He had been sufficiently long interested in politics to know something of the attitude adopted towards social reform by right hon. and hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition side of the House. During the afternoon his mind had been taken back to 1894, when the Liberal Ministry of the day had a very small and uncertain majority behind them, and when those who occupied the Opposition Benches did not know what a day, what an hour, would bring forth. They were expecting almost every moment that the Government would be defeated, and there would be an appeal to the country. Preparations were made by the Opposition, and they had the memorable social programme which was supposed to have been framed in the library of the Member for West Birmingham. He remembered that social programme very well. In the forefront of it stood a question on which politicians never ceased to speak, and on which electors never failed to hear something at the meetings which they attended—the subject of old-age pensions. He also remembered that the author of that programme, and all his colleagues, came into power in the following year, and remained continually in power until a little over a year ago. How had they kept their programme in mind? There was not only old-age pensions in the forefront of it, but there was another measure in which the miners were distinctly interested, the Miners Eight Hours Bill. He need not go through the items which had been referred to with a certain amount of *éclat* by Members above the gangway. Among the measures was the Workmen's Compensation Bill. But he might safely say that the promise with regard to even that measure had not been fulfilled. He was working in one of the foundries at the time the question was brought forward for legislation, and he, like others, had looked forward to compensation for all accidents, no matter how those accidents occurred. The short term which was used in those days was "Universal compensation for all accidents." He had taken the trouble to give this brief history in order to show what was the attitude of the Opposition towards social reform—of the Party which was now throwing obstacles in the way of the present Government's carrying out their promises in reference to social reform. Having regard to the lavish promises made in 1894, and to the fact that a Unionist Government had been in office continuously ever since, might he ask where the obstacles had come from, and who were they who had prevented the Unionist Party, in office for something like ten or eleven years, from completing every item of the programme with which they captured the country about twelve years ago? The country had a right to ask that pertinent question. They had left the question of old-age pensions, and of the miners' eight hours day in the same position as they were in in 1894. But they could see in a moment, on examination, that the obstacles now set up found their origin in two causes—the determination of the Government to do something for Ireland, and the question of the House of Lords. But assuming for the sake of argument that the present Government were guilty of placing obstacles in the way of social reform, what of the Party who were now complaining? The Unionist Party had also been guilty of putting obstacles in the way of social legislation. What of the agitation voluntarily undertaken in connection with fiscal reform? Were they justified in placing that obstacle in the path of social reform, as they undoubtedly did from May, 1903, after the speech of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, and just immediately before his (Mr. Henderson's) first election? After having themselves blocked the way to social reform, was it for the Unionist representatives, at the beginning of the second session of this Parliament, to challenge the Government who had only been in power one year, as to their policy of social reform, which, he maintained, his Majesty's Government were carrying out? He was not going to say that Labour Members were fully satisfied with everything the Government had done, but they were going to trust his Majesty's Ministers a little longer until it was shown that they were no better than their predecessors in keeping their pledges in favour of social reform, and if they found that they were no better they would be prepared to act towards them as they had acted towards the Unionist Government. The Government were doing a little, and they on those benches were prepared to trust them to see whether they would do a little more. The objection of the Opposition was that the Government were also going to do something for Ireland. He thought he was speaking accurately when he said that every member of the Labour Party was a Home Ruler. That being so, they welcomed the indication in the King's Speech, and in the excellent speeches delivered by the Prime Minister and by the right hon. Gentleman who had recently accepted responsibility for the management of Irish affairs. It might be truly said, as had been stated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that what the Government proposed was not Home Rule. But what they said in reply was that by going in the direction of Home Rule, the Labour Party, so far as he was aware, would be prepared to give the Government the fullest and most earnest support that they had at their command in the endeavour to place the Government measure on the Statute-book. Then there was the objection that the Government had turned aside to deal with the relations between the two Houses. It was only fair to say that the Government had not sought that issue. It had been forced upon them; and he for one would like to say that if the Government at the commencement of the second session of the new Parliament had given no indication of their attitude towards the treatment in another place of Government Bills, and not only of Government Bills, but of Bills for which the Labour Party were responsible, there would have been much disappointment. The noble Lord had referred to the Education Bill and the Plural Voting Bill, but the Labour Party had to complain about a Bill of their own. They had sent up a little Bill, which was not of very great importance to the majority of Members of this House. It was a Bill to prevent the importation of alien "blacklegs." It was passed unanimously in this House, but was rejected and never discussed in the other House, on the subterfuge that the Government had declined to make themselves responsible for the measure. Personally he did not want to see the Government make themselves responsible for it, but if he and those who sat on the benches behind him were never to get a small measure like that through the House of Lords, unless the Government made itself responsible for it, they had better go home. Therefore they had a grudge against the House of Lords in unceremoniously rejecting that little Bill. Then there was the Bill for the feeding of children. It had been urged as a justification for the action of the House of Lords in regard to that measure that there was no evidence from Scotland in favour of the measure. He admitted that they did not have all the evidence from Scotland that they would have liked, but what was strongly before the House of Lords was the fact that every Liberal Member and the two Labour Members representing Scotland voted in favour of the Bill. In regard to this Amendment, what was the position? The Government had not sought this issue; it had been forced upon them. The point he wished to make was that this issue, having been forced upon the House, and the Government having accepted the challenge, the Party for which he was speaking sincerely hoped that the battle, once begun, would be carried right through to a finish. He was in full agreement on this question with what the hon. Member for Wansbeck had said. What was the use of their going to the constituencies, and their great trade organisations being put to the expense of an election, if in the very first session of a new Parliament the House of Lords was to be allowed to pick and choose as to which measures should be rejected, which should be mutilated, and which should be passed? It seemed to him that it reduced representative government to an absolute farce if those who had been elected to voice the wishes of the constituencies were to tolerate the setting aside of their expressed will in this way. They had been told that there was nothing in their objection to the action of the House of Lords, because they passed such a useful crop of legislation last session. It had also been stated that they only passed the Trade Disputes Bill and the Workmen's Compensation Bill because they were plainly told that they must pass them by a certain section of this House. In his opinion that only made their case worse, because if they possessed revising responsibilities they had no right to claim that the Trade Disputes Bill would bring ruin upon commerce and industry and then allow it to pass without a division. He hoped that the Government, having set out to bring about a reform of the intolerable position they were now in, would carry the issue right through to a finish. On this question the Labour Party wanted no patchwork. They would never consent to a reform which might leave them with a second Chamber in existence that made the last position worse than the first. That being so, they went in for ending instead of mending the House of Lords.

MR. F. E. SMITH (Liverpool, Walton) said there was a well-known saying that in politics there was little gratitude. But he thought the hon Member for Barnard Castle, before he taunted the Conservative Party with their new-found zeal for social reform, should have remembered that measures which were considered useful by the Labour Party, such as the Factories Acts, Truck Act, Free Education Act, Trade Unions Act, and Workmen's Compensation Act, owed their inception to the Conservative Party. [MINISTERIAL Cries of "Oh, oh!"] Surely what he had stated was well within the knowledge of the whole House.

MR. FENWICK: Not the Free Education Act.

MR. F. E. SMITH claimed that that Act was supported by the Conservative Party.

MR. FENWICK: The Free Education Act was carried by the Liberal vote being added to the Tory vote. Two nights after the division, in reply to a Question, the late Mr. W. H. Smith admitted that more than half of his own Party voted against the Second Reading of the Bill and that the Bill was only carried by the Liberal vote being added.

MR. F. E. SMITH said that established fully the proposition he made, which was that the measures he enumerated owed their inception to the Conservative Party. He might have added that in their endeavours to place the Truck and Factory Acts on the Statute-book they encountered no little opposition from the Liberal Party. He was sure that on reflection the hon. Gentleman would qualify his observations. The primary issue before them, that of the House of Lords, was, he agreed, of supreme seriousness; but to listen to the speeches so lightly made one might wonder whether they were taking part in a tragedy or a comic opera. Did hon. Members know that those who were considering this question ten years ago had also given no slight attention to the practical method of dealing with the House of Lords? He knew no more astute and experienced politician in that House than the leader of the Irish Party. That Party in their view had no more cause to like the House of Lords then than now, yet this was what the hon. and learned Member said at that time—

> "It is positively amusing to read the facile prophecies of early destruction that are hurled at the Lords; you would imagine it was the easiest thing in the world to pull down an institution as old as the English Monarchy, which enjoys the confidence of millions of the English people."

Those words were as true to-day as they were then, and the difficulty had not grown less. The threats and resolutions and stage alarums that had been bandied about the country were an inspiriting prelude if the Government was going into action; they were singularly unimpressive if the Government was marching out of the line of fire of a general election. The Lords had taken the same line towards the Plural Voting Bill that they took with regard to the franchise dispute in 1884, insisting that the greater anomaly as well as the smaller must be dealt with. As to the Education Bill, the real quarrel of hon. Members opposite with the Lords was not that they destroyed that Bill, but that they did not destroy the Trade Disputes Bill. The Liberal Party had hoped to have the latter Bill as a make-weight in their great Constitutional struggle. None of the really enlightened champions of democracy had since dealt with this issue of the House of Lords without giving vent to their extreme grievance of the passage of the Trade Disputes Bill. One of these hon. Gentlemen, who now sat on the Front Bench, asked, "Why was it the House of Lords passed the

Trade Disputes Bill? Because the foot of Labour is big." Although the Lords thought it a bad Bill, they passed it because the foot of Labour was big. When there were reasons for thinking the majority in the constituencies in favour of a measure was large, then the House of Lords passed that Bill, irrespective of their own moral judgment. Did any hon. Member suppose that at the time the House of Lords passed the Reform Bill they approved of it? [An HON. MEMBER: No.] Precisely, that was the position in regard to the Trade Disputes Bill. [Laughter.] Hon. Members who laughed did not mark where that admission led to. It led a little beyond the pleasantry of the moment. It led to the conclusion that if once the Lords were convinced the people really wanted a Bill, they would pass that Bill. If he had established that preliminary ground, he asked the House to mark the practical conclusions that flowed from it with reference to the Education Bill. He gathered that the view of hon. Members on the other side was that the House of Lords was a collection of extremely pusillanimous statesmen. What was it in respect of which they were pusillanimous? It was not the House of Commons. It was the country, and when they had reason to believe that popular feeling would flame into violence against them they would pass a particular measure. It was said that the country was seething with indignation because the Lords did not pass the Education Bill. From what quarter was the indignation to be generated? Was it to come from Bristol, where the Minister before the election promised a Bill with all-round facilities? The Labour Members took no interest in it because it was not frankly secularist. Was it coming from Mr. Hirst Hollowell and the passive resisters, whose sole thought was that the Bill must be stopped somehow? Were the Irish Members or the English Roman Catholics satisfied with the Bill? The strongest possible motive was needed before the Government could deal with the House of Lords, and the Prime Minister had said, "A way must be found." He had always found in his experience that when a man said that a thing must be done he had not the slightest idea of the particular method. During the recess the Home Secretary, in a speech at Leeds, after a torrent of criticism of the House of Lords, informed his listeners that he really believed, by the line the House of Lords had taken, that they had brought the secular solution nearer; and then he added,

"I myself have always been in favour of the secular solution."

That was the extent of the right hon. Gentleman's quarrel with the House of Lords. It was true that while the right hon. Gentleman sympathised with the secular principle he voted against it. The Home Secretary had avowed himself a supporter of the policy of filling up the cup, but the right hon. Gentleman was too mild and courteous a man to be really at home in this revolutionary *galère*. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies stepped into the breach at Manchester and pointed out that a great deal could be done by tacking. Nobody knew better than the hon. Gentleman what could be done by tacking. Members of the Party opposite had been invited by the *Tribune* to state their view as to how the situation should be dealt with, and he found that they had eleven distinct methods of dealing with it, each of which had considerable sections on the benches opposite to support it. The method which had received the largest measure of support was that of restricting the veto so as to enable the House of Lords to throw out only once a Bill passed by this House. Was it not obvious that by committing themselves to such a method of dealing with the House of Lords, whether by Resolution or by Bill, hon. Gentlemen opposite were really making themselves a laughing-stock before the country? What was the whole dispute? The whole dispute was whether the Government or the Opposition represented the people on a particular issue—let them take the case of the Education Bill—and obviously the Government could not be the judge in the issue which they themselves put forward. If that view had prevailed the last Home Rule Bill would have been law to-day, although the country had so speedily rejected it after the House of Lords refused it. The real truth was that historically the efforts of the Liberal Party to deal with the Constitutional question had been vitiated by a complete disability to distinguish between the Liberal Party and the people. They were not necessarily constantly the same. They occasionally approximated one to the other more than they did at other times. A most offensive habit which the Liberals had in dealing with this issue was to talk of England as if it were a permanent Radical pocket borough much on the same principle as if a valet wore the master's clothes in the servants' hall. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh, oh."] The Liberals had been attempting for 250 years and more, without making substantial progress, to pass resolutions declaring that the House of Lords was useless, dangerous, and ought to be abolished. He was sure that the House of Lords was more than satisfied, and the agitation which the Government had in contemplation would perhaps be not more effective. Whenever hon. Members opposite had been in power, they had adopted the same tactics as far as the House of Lords was concerned. He had tried to discover the historical origin of the phrase—the offensive phrase, "the people's House," which was so common in the mouths of a large number of Liberals. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Why?"] Because it was not necessary to insist on a fact with which everybody was familiar, and because it was only stated in order to induce in some way the view that the Liberals were the special and self-appointed guardians of the people. This interesting expression arose at the time when Fox's India Bill in 1784 was carried through the House of Commons by a majority of 100, and thrown out by the House of Lords. The action of the House of Lords provoked protests which were exactly paralleled by the protests being made to-day; but the result of all the protests was that 160 of "Fox's Martyrs" lost their seats. Then coming down to Lord Melbourne's administration from 1835 to 1841, he feared there were not many hon. Members who recollected that period, but they must have read that between these years there was constant friction between the two Houses, and the Irish Municipal Corporation Bill convulsed Ireland to the heart. Led by the great O'Connell, there was more promise then of a successful agitation against the House of Lords than at any other period, and Macaulay said that there would be a final collision between the two Houses soon. There wree four years of bluster, during which the Liberals declared that the people were being betrayed, but, at the general election which followed, those who had said that the people had been betrayed, and had thrown themselves on the bosom of the people were themselves cast away, and the Conservatives were returned by a majority of ninety-one. Again in 1872, there was a bitter agitation against the House of Lords, but two years after the Conservatives were once more returned to power by a majority of two votes. Then there was the case of the Home Rule Bill. He would remind the House of the meetings in Hyde Park and Trafalgar Square, to protest against the action of the House of Lords in throwing out that measure. Hon. Gentlemen opposite chose their battleground; they came, they saw, and they were conquered. And that was the end of the great outcry against the House of Lords. The Liberal Party had drawn too many cheques on the people in the last sixty years—cheques which had been returned marked "no assets"—for much attention to be paid to the present pretensions. He would recall the repartee of Charles II., when warned by his brother James that the people meant to assassinate him. Charles replied—

> "They are hardly likely to assassinate me to make you king."

The people of England were not likely to assassinate the House of Lords to make the Radical Party king. He ventured to think that the people of England were similarly unlikely to assasinate the House of Lords in order to make the House of Commons king. He would only say in conclusion that small numerically as the party was to which he belonged, they would welcome a clear and definite pronouncement that the Government had taken the burden of this great Constitutional question on their shoulders, to add to those which already rested there. They would in that case look forward to the future with even greater hope than they had looked forward to it before the Government embarrassed themselves by attempting to deal with the gravest Constitutional problem with which the country had been brought face to face for over a hundred years—a problem of which no less than ten Members opposite had suggested absolutely inconsistent solutions.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I think everyone who has listened to the brilliant speech of my hon. and learned friend will admit that he has added to his Parliamentary reputation by his clear and acute analysis of some of the fallacies by which the question of the House of Lords has been embarrassed in current Parliament controversy. In my remarks I would venture to remind the House that, while undoubtedly everything connected with the relative positions of the two Houses and everything connected with the fundamental relation of the Imperial Parliament to Ireland is strictly relevant to this debate, nevertheless the point principally raised by the Amendment is as to whether the Government, if they had been sincere in their desire to carry out great but unspecified social reforms, would have embarrassed their course by launching us into the turbid sea of political dispute over two such gigantic questions as the House of Lords and Home Rule. That is the real question, the main question. I would begin, therefore, by expressing not any view as to the plan of the Government with regard to the House of Lords, because I entirely agree with the Chancellor of the Exchequer that neither I nor any other Member of the House knows what the plan is, and is therefore competent to discuss it. I say "no other Member" advisedly, including in the phrase His Majesty's Government. The Chancellor of the Exchequer said that the secret was of a kind that was never broken. I agree. No secret can be revealed which is not known to any one. And my conviction is that His Majesty's Government, overburdened by an autumn session and other onerous duties, have not yet resolved in what form they mean to attack the ancient Constitution of this country. As I do not know, and if they do not know, what line their attack is going to take, it would be folly on my part to attempt to discuss it. But, surely, I am justified in going so far as to say that it is impossible that you should enter upon this great controversy as to the relations of the House of Lords with the House of Commons and the people without opening the floodgates of political controversy which will, and must, overwhelm every minor question, every smaller question, every less exciting question of social reform, and will render this House useless for any purpose of carrying out those objects to which the hon. Member for North-West Ham made such interesting references earlier in the evening. When I listened to the debate this afternoon I tried to gather what was the justification of the Government in starting this great debate, which is to last not only over this session, not only over this Parliament, but, as the Attorney-General said, over this Parliament and many of its successors. I listened for that justification, and it seemed to me to be of the thinnest and the most jejune description. One hon. Gentleman mentioned the Reform Bill of 1831 and 1832. But that was seventy-six years ago. Since that time there have been declarations made in the House of Lords by great authorities, and accepted by the House of Lords, which make it perfectly clear that no such crisis as that of 1832 could ever again occur, because it has been laid down by many great statesmen, among others by Lord Salisbury, that when it is perfectly clear, as it was in 1832, that the people of the country were determined upon a particular course, it was no part of the constitutional function of the House of Lords to resist. There is no use, therefore, in quoting 1831 or 1832. These are not only ancient precedents, but musty precedents.

MR. MACNEILL (who was received with Opposition cries of "Order"): May I ask when Lord Salisbury said that? I ask the right hon. Gentleman in all courtesy.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I agree, perfectly courteously, if rather irregularly. I can assure the hon. and learned Gentleman that I have not come down armed with quotations, but I do not think there is anybody in the House who will say that I have not accurately represented the doctrine, not preached by Lord Salisbury as a solitary prophet, but the accepted doctrine of all those who have had deserved importance in the other House. What were the other cases alleged? The hon. Gentleman whose speeches always interest me, the hon. Member for Northampton, quoted the paper duty of 1860. He has the advantage over all of us that he has just written a very interesting work on contemporary history; but, unless my memory entirely fails me, there was no difficulty with the House of Lords. It did, indeed, reject the paper duty in one session, but there was no difficulty found in carrying out that reform, which, as the hon. Gentleman explained to us, gave us the double blessing of cheap Shakespeares and cheap newspapers. Well, after 1860, what case was produced which would require us to uproot the whole British Constitution? There was a great leap from 1860 or 1861 until the events of last year. The events of last year are, no doubt, fresh in the memory of the House, and especially fresh in the memory of the right hon. Gentleman to whom, to my great misfortune, is entrusted the duty of replying to my observations to-night. I mean the late Minister for Education and the present Chief Secretary for Ireland. I am obliged to my hon. and learned friend who spoke last for a hint he gave me.

What was the double crime of the House of Lords in the last session? It was that they passed the Trade Disputes Bill and modified the Education Bill—modified and amended the Education Bill. Of the first crime I will say nothing. If I am challenged, I will make this observation. I observed great hilarity just now, when my hon. and learned friend was speaking, because he pointed out that the House of Lords were probably influenced in their action by the consciousness, or the belief rightly or wrongly entertained, that there was a body of public opinion in this country behind the Trade Disputes Bill which was really of a fixed and unalterable character, and that it was really the view of a great mass of the electorate. I have no doubt that did influence them. I hope that did influence them. I think it ought to have influenced them. That is exactly the kind of argument that ought to influence the House of Lords in its position as the regulative, not the primary or the most important, Assembly in our double Assembly Constitution. Why it should be a matter of either hilarity or reproach I confess myself wholly unable to understand. Well, then, I come to the Education Bill. I excited some merriment, I think, in hon. Gentlemen opposite when I said just now that what the House of Lords had done with regard to that Bill was to modify it. It was modified. Hon. Gentlemen opposite no doubt thought, and I dare say still think, that the modifications were of such a character as made it impossible for the Government now in power to pass it. Well, I do not dispute that. It is not for me to judge. I venture to say the modifications were not of a character which would have made that Bill unsatisfactory to the great mass even of the Party which support hon. Gentlemen opposite. I am not going, of course, to repeat those ancient debates in detail; but let me remind the House of several points in the great controversy—I will not call it the great education controversy, but the great controversy connected with religious education in this country. That Bill, as modified by the Lords, and as sent down finally to this House and rejected by this House, would have left the appointment of teachers in the great mass of our schools entirely to the local authorities; it would have handed over the management of the great mass of the schools entirely to the local authority; it would have taken away from the present managers of the great mass of our schools the powers they now possess; it would have entirely removed the great blot which we still inherit from the Act of 1870—the blot of the single-school area difficulty; every Nonconformist parent throughout the country would have been able at the public expense to get the religious teaching he liked for his child; and every denominationalist throughout the country who wanted to get the religious education which he liked for his child would have had to pay for it out of his own pocket. You would, therefore, have got rid—if that Bill had passed, modified by the House of Lords—of the passive resister [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."]—yes, except as regards Clause 4 schools, invented by the Government—and even in those schools I cannot conceive where the passive resister comes in, because in every school in the country the cost of denominational education was to be paid for by the parents or by the denominations. You would have got rid of the passive resister difficulty; you would have got rid of the single-school area difficulty; and you would have handed over the great bulk of your schools absolutely to the control of the local authority. Is any man in this Assembly going to tell me that you will uproot an institution more ancient than this House—an institution which has borne its part, as every historian, including the hon. Gentleman the Member for Northampton, will admit, without discredit or hishonour to the great political abilities of our country; whose debates have been adorned by eloquence, by the presence of statesmen, by a fine political instinct as to what was or was not required by the growing institutions of this country; but is any man in this Assembly going to write himself down such an ass as not to recognise how great and how honourable has been the part played by the debates in the House of Lords? Not one will dare to say so.

Then, if that be so, are we going to destroy an institution of this kind because, forsooth, with regard to one measure brought in by Gentlemen opposite [" Oh, oh!"]—well, one of the great and beneficent measures brought in by hon. Gentlemen opposite, with regard to education, they amended that Bill or altered that Bill—I will not use any question-begging phrase—they altered that Bill so as to give parents greater control over the education of their children, while remedying all the great grievances which have been alleged against the system which we have inherited from the Act of 1870? Sir, the thing is absurd. It is not upon the supposed delinquencies of the House of Lords in the past that any alteration of our Constitution in the future can possibly be framed. What I notice even more than the jejune character of the elements on which the attack on the House of Lords was based was a total want of comprehension of the extraordinary difficulty and gravity of the problem which any attempt to deal with the House of Lords would necessarily carry with it. In America, where representative institutions and a Second Chamber exist, they have a written Constitution. In this country, as we all know, you have no written Constitution. Our Constitution has grown gradually, and there are no safeguards, literally no safeguards, for its preservation from chance attacks by chance majorities. I do not allege that hon. Gentlemen opposite constitute a chance majority. I am only pointing out the extreme difficulty of the problem you are dealing with. Our Constitution has come down to us and has been modified in accordance with out needs. It has been slow modification and slow growth. If you are going, to destroy the power of the House of Lords, to use a majority of the House of Commons which may have been produced in a moment of transitory excitement—[" Oh!"]—yes; I do not put it controversially—what substitute are you going to have? The Americans, who I suppose are not undemocratic, have so swathed and bound themselves in the limits of their Constitution that they cannot even put on an income-tax and they cannot alter the Constitution without procedure so cumbrous and so difficult that it would be the despair of any practical statesman who tried to introduce any important modification into it. We are happily blessed with a Constitution far more elastic, far more capable of the necessary modifications which time and change bring with them. But if you are going to have no limits to the power of the House of Commons, you have no security that the Constitution may not be shattered in a moment. I think that is perfect folly. I do not believe any serious political thinker on the other side wishes that insecurity introduced into the very basis of our political life; and surely, while no sane man would trust a single Chamber with so enormous a responsibility with regard to the deposit of centuries of which we are the temporary trustees, that folly would be doubly foolish when we remember the conditions under which the modern House of Commons works, and, I do not deny, has to work. A quotation was read this evening by my noble friend from Mr. Bryce, in which, in 1889, he pointed out the necessity of a Second Chamber, and based his argument largely on the fact that the House of Commons, under a constitution which had been recently changed in 1889, worked under the closure rule. Ever since that date closure rules have been getting more and more stringent; full and free debate is getting more and more difficult. Every Government in turn has been responsible for the change. I make it no subject of accusation against hon. Gentlemen opposite at the present time that they have not only used to the full every instrument for curtailing debate left them by their predecessors, but are in the way of inventing new instruments themselves. I do not quarrel with that now; I may quarrel with it on some other occasion. But the fact remains, and nobody was more sensible of it than hon. Gentlemen opposite when they happened to be in Opposition. Are you, then, really going to leave it to a Ministry, who are necessarily the creatures of a majority in this House, to destroy by a stroke of the pen, and without adequate debate, the very foundations of the institutions under which this country has lived and flourished? You have only got to state the problem to see its gigantic character. It is not a question whether the House of Lords did right with the Education Bill and did wrong with the Trade Disputes Bill, whether they did or did not pass the Reform Bill years later than they ought to have passed it; or whether the proposal as to the paper duty should or should not have been resisted in 1860. You are going to the very root of the Constitution; and I only mention that now to prove to every man who listens to me that the Government which gratuitously raises this question is gratuitously raising a problem which must overshadow almost every other which can be dealt with by this House—I said almost every other because I am not sure that it overshadows the other problem raised in this Amendment —I mean the question of Home Rule.

The right hon. Gentleman the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who replied to the most brilliant and eloquent speech of my noble friend to-night, dwelt at considerable length on the subject of Ireland. He was apologetic, explanatory, and I am bound to say, I think defamatory, too, in part of his speech. I felt I admit, rather aggrieved when, without rhyme or reason, or any connection with the Amendment, he chose to quote and endorse a statement made by the Foreign Secretary at Newcastle in December which never had a vestige of foundation, which has been elaborately and deliberately contradicted by me more than once, namely, that I ever gave my consent, directly or indirectly, to any form of devolution.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL: Where are the letters?

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Neither by letter, nor by conversation, nor by assertion direct or indirect, have I ever under any circumstances, to anybody or in any place, suggested that I was in favour of devolution. The Foreign Secretary ought never to have made the statement, and it ought never to have been repeated by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. However, the Chancellor of the Exchequer dragged me in, and I was obliged to make that brief personal statement. But I am not interested in defending myself to-night, because that is not the question before the House. The question before the House, in connection with Home Rule and the Government, is really as to where the Government stand in this matter, and what is the character of the controversy into which they are going to introduce us. It is the character of that controversy which is eminently relevant to this Amendment, and it is the magnitude of the dispute which will have relation to that social legislation of which we have heard so much in the vague and so little in detail. The right hon. Gentleman did a very unusual thing in my experience. He got up and explained his position with regard to the government of Ireland this session. He repeated certain statements which he had made at the general election, and then he put his hand on his heart and told us that if anything was done by the Government, or proposed by the Government, inconsistent with his election and pre-election pledges, he would then and there resign. Did he speak for all his colleagues? My noble friend read out—I have not verified the quotation, but no doubt it was accurate—a quotation from the Secretary for War, in which the Secretary for War, anxious—rightly and naturally—to collect Unionist votes in the county he represents, explained that nothing would be proposed with regard to the government of Ireland in this Parliament which was otherwise than agreeable to gentlemen holding Unionist opinions. ["Oh, oh."] Yes; that was what he said. Is the Secretary for War going to get up in his place and, putting his hand on his heart, assure us that he will resign if anything is proposed that is unpleasant to the Unionist electors of this country? I think if he did there would be a very serious prospect of the Government losing one of their most brilliant and most efficient Members. But let us consider the matter a little further. The right hon. Gentleman, while protesting in this emphatic manner that nothing in the nature of Home Rule was going to be proposed by himself or his colleagues on pain of his own resignation, told us that in his view the Irish government must be altered root and branch. Take it even upon that level. You do not alter the long-established government of any country, not even of Ireland, without introducing subjects of such magnitude that minor issues must vanish. Even if you are going to confine your attention to the relationship of the Chief Secretary to the various boards in Ireland and to the Under-Secretary in Ireland, even if you are going to carry out changes which may without violence of language be described as merely involving devolution—even then is it not plain that you must raise issues of the utmost difficulty, of the utmost complexity, which will postpone all other questions until they are settled? That is not all, or nearly all. There is a very clear and distinct divergence between the statements of one section of the Cabinet and another section of the Cabinet upon this point. Both sections agree that nothing which is to be done is to be inconsistent with Home Rule. Well, I suppose not. The existing Constitution of Ireland, repulsive as it is to so many gentlemen from Ireland, is not inconsistent with bringing in a Home Rule Bill or carrying it through this House. That has been twice done. Therefore, of course, I am ready to accept the statement that no change of a devolutionary character in the government of Ireland would be inconsistent with Home Rule. But that is not what we want to know. What we want to know is whether this is to be a step in the direction of Home Rule, whether it is to be an instalment towards Home Rule. We want to know whether it is framed as a half-way house towards Home Rule; and on that I observe a marked distinction between the carefully chosen language of the Prime Minister and the not less carefully chosen language of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Prime Minister is perfectly clear. He wants to get some day, not merely Home Rule in the Gladstonian sense, but Home Rule in the Colonial sense; and he advised his Irish supporters to accept anything which he could induce his colleagues to accept which is of assistance towards that ultimate goal. That is not the language of the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer carefully guards himself. He says, of course, "Anything we may bring in may be represented by partial and prejudiced opponents as being a step to Home Rule, and they may so represent it in debate — the possibilities of debate are great, and that kind of perversion, that kind of representation, of our policy is one very easy to make." The Chief Secretary is also a Home Ruler. I do not know whether he wants a Colonial or only a Home Rule Parliament. They are very different. Of two very pernicious things the Colonial Parliament, being the more extreme form of a Home Rule Parliament is the worse. A Colonial Parliament, being beyond a Home Rule Parliament, is the worse for any part of the United Kingdom. I do not think that can be denied. I think everybody feels that we do not want to break up the United Kingdom, or to revert to what we have done in Australasia. Everybody feels that, of two methods of smashing up, the Colonial principle is the extremer of the two. It is the case of lyddite and of dynamite. But which is the one that the Government mean to adopt? I take it that they must and will be driven to the Prime Minister's view. The leader of the Irish Party the other night indicated admirably and forcibly, but not for the first time by many, his view that nothing will settle the Irish question except giving to Ireland a separate Parliament and a Ministry responsible to it. Then consider what, from the point of view of this Amendment, is the folly of the procedure of the present Government. Their object being to get over all these difficult constitutional questions and then plunge whole-heartedly into the problems of social reform, they deliberately divide into two controversial halves one controversy—the controversy about Ireland. They deliberately set to work to break up the existing system, knowing that that cannot be the solution of the question. You have the reiterated statement of every member of the Irish Party that whatever you do with your Irish boards, however you manipulate the machinery of Irish government, nothing will settle the Irish question, in their view, until they have a separate Parliament. If your object is to settle the Irish question, and if your view is that it cannot be settled unless you satisfy the hon. Gentlemen below the gangway, why do you make two bites of this cherry? My hon. and learned friend who spoke last asked how it was that this body of courageous politicians, the great mass of whom are avowed Home Rulers, have not the courage to tackle Home Rule? I do not ask that question. I ask another—How this body of social reformers, anxious to deal with social reform, deliberately spread out the Irish controversy over two great questions instead of settling it over one? Why are you going to waste a session over manipulating the machinery of Irish government, and other sessions afterwards over the question of giving a separate Parliament, and a separate Administration responsible to the Parliament, to the Irish people? That is a question to which I may receive some answer from the right hon. Gentleman. But, at all events, I think I have shown enough in what I have said, not to demonstrate either the utility or the inutility of the House of Lords, not to discuss the merits or demerits of Home Rule, but to show conclusively that a Government which insists on dealing with the House of Lords and on raising and dealing with the Irish question in these two separate instalments is not a Government which can be regarded as seriously desirous to carry out social reforms. There was a very interesting speech to-night, delivered unfortunately in a nearly empty House, by the hon. Member for North West Ham, who gave us an autobiographical glimpse of his early life. He told us that long after he became a young man he was indifferent to Party issues, but when the Unionist Party came into power in 1895 he watched its career at first with hope—that dwindled—and finally with despair. He told us that the Party catalogue of social reforms was so meagre that he and multitudes of young men his contemporaries—indeed I think he included the great mass of the working classes of the country—having been favourable to the Imperial ideas of the Unionist Party, turned to their rivals in despair and gave up Imperialism, as it seemed to be bare of social reform. I am sufficiently removed from youth to have the deepest sympathy with its difficulties, its problems, and disappointments; but I confess that while I listened I wondered whether the hon. Member was not acting unconsciously as a great missionary for the Unionist Party in the course he has taken to-night. He told us that he started with indifference as between the two great Parties, but became a Radical because the Unionists were slack in social reform; to-day he has announced himself an adherent of a Government which indefinitely postpones social reforms until they have settled the two great constitutional questions—the House of Lords and Ireland. I think the junior generation to the hon. Gentleman, his juniors by ten years, if they study our debates and proceedings with the attention he has given to them, will draw a moral not dissimilar to his, except that its application will be turned in an exactly opposite direction. They will look at his speech and will say, "Here we have the high water mark of earnest social reform; here is a man of whose honesty in politics there is no doubt, who comes to the House as a social reformer, it might be almost said as nothing but a social reformer, and yet he is caught by the Radical Party and becomes nothing more or less than a Radical wirepuller and politician." I think the effect on the ingenuous youth will be as great and as striking as that of which he has given us an interesting account to-night; and if there are any still remaining outside the House who ever take seriously the social programme as delivered from Radical platforms, those people, if such there be, will hardly doubt that the Radical Party has fallen back into its old course. Though face to face with the real and difficult problems of social life, they have failed to grapple with them with a view to their solution, and have preferred to take instead the old familiar and barren path of political destruction.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE LORD-LIEUTENANT OF IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) : It is naturally with some perturbation of spirit that I rise, for the first time in my Parliamentary life, to take part in a general debate of a kind which, I think, is sometimes called "full dress." But it is one of those full-dress debates the melancholy splendour of which has been much depressed by two, I am sorry to say, unsuccessful attempts to count it out. The right hon. Gentleman has made a speech, and I find some difficulty in following him. It has hitherto been my lot to be followed by him. I remember one great occasion that I was followed by the right hon. Gentleman when, in a speech of somewhat unexpected passion, he called upon his myrmidons in another place to kill the Bill which was our first fruits in the first prolonged session of a new Parliament. I am not surprised to find that he is possessed of the opinion that the other place has a fine political instinct. Where would he be without the other place? Cast our thought back a little more than a year ago. The right hon. Gentleman then was Prime Minister, sitting on this Bench, commanding a great majority in this House and the loyal acquiescence of the other branch of the Legislature. He seemed to have everything on his side. But he committed, as I think he will now probably admit, one error. He sat where he did a little bit too long. The consequence was that when the appeal was made—as necessarily some time or another it has to be made—to the country he underwent a great reverse of fortune in this House. He is now, instead of the leader of a great Party, the leader of a very small one, and I cannot help reminding him—as Canning once reminded a clergyman that it was possible to be both tedious and brief—that it is possible to be the leader of a small and yet disunited Party. But for all that the right hon. Gentleman still wields a great power, and he was able, by his command of votes in another place, to exercise almost supreme authority over the fortunes of that Education Bill, for which, I am bound to say, he made to-night one of the best speeches in its favour I have ever known him to make. I only wish his new-born zeal for the corpse had been introduced into our debates when it was yet alive. The right hon. Gentleman made an exceedingly good case for that Bill; but last session by his counsels, by his influence, when it came to anything like negotiation, although defeated in this House, although the leader of a small and disunited Party here, he nevertheless was able to control the fortunes of the Bill elsewhere—so much so, indeed, that the House of Lords was really in the position of a pocket borough of the right hon. Gentleman. In the days of George III., some sixty or seventy Members sat in this House for pocket boroughs belonging to the Crown, and were called the King's friends; they were found exceedingly inconvenient by the Government of the time being if it did not succeed in obtaining their vote. The same sort of thing exists now, for the Tory Party have their pocket boroughs in another place, and whatever may happen at a general election they are able to exercise an enormous control which I do not think fairly belongs to them. Therefore, when hon. Members opposite, including the hon. Member for the Walton Division, who made, as he always does, a powerful and admirable speech, ask us, "How are you going to get up any steam against the House of Lords?" they mean, "Is Bristol once more to smoke with fires, are the military to be called out to shoot my constituents, are Manchester and Leeds to be in flames, and all the inhabitants of Newcastle to go out on the town moor?" I do not think that is the way the question will arise at all. I think it has come now to this, that the country will regard it as a matter of fair play. It is as a matter of fair play that they will argue the question as to the present relationships between the two Houses. If we found a Second Chamber that was eminently critical, that was, if I may say so, uniformly disagreeable, if we found a House composed almost entirely, let me say, of men like my very dear friend, whom I may mention quite frankly, Lord Courtney, if they were that kind of man, a most invaluable kind of man who approaches the schemes, whether of friend or foe, with the same impartial eye and the same exacting criticism, then I, who, as a follower of truth am rather fond of criticism, should say there was a good deal to be said for a House of Lords of that description, provided its powers were not too great. But everybody knows that the House of Lords has ceased to play the part of an intelligent Second Chamber. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh" and MINISTERIAL cries of "Hear, hear."] Some, I will not say of the more intelligent, but of the younger men amongst them, have begun to recognise this themselves; they have observed on the extraordinary fact that they are called upon to exercise their critical and disagreeable functions only when a Liberal Government is in power, and that they are asked at the very latest moment, when a Tory Government is in power, to pass all the Tory measures, wholly irrespective of whether they are to their mind or not. In my view, commonplace, perhaps, as it may be, the country is alive to that consideration of the state of the case, and they will honestly and justly require that some arrangement should be made, that some alteration may be effected, which will adjust the powers of this House and the other House a little more fairly, so as to secure, if that be possible, the real value of a critical and revising Assembly. It is not only the Liberal Party that has been guilty of hasty legislation, or of having placed on the Statute-book unintelligible clauses which have necessitated appeals to a Court of law. Everybody agrees—I agree frankly—that there may very likely be ill-considered legislation, and if there is to be a Second Chamber at all, I should like to see one that had some capacity and willingness to exercise purely critical functions. I believe those critical functions would be very usefully employed. And therefore I do not for a moment hold that this question is one that will be treated by the country in a revolutionary spirit; but that it will be treated in a spirit of fair play and common sense. The right hon. Gentleman seems to think that the Liberal Party ought to be quite content with the delightful situation under which they can only secure the passage through Parliament of measures upon which they have set their hearts and given pledges to their constituents at the point of revolution each time. What does that come to? That when the Liberal Party are in power there are to be annual Parliaments, but when the Tory Party are in power, septennial Parliaments. It is said, for instance, that the House of Lords passed the Trade Disputes Bill because it had been printed. I do not deny for a moment that there were a certain number of constituencies which were made acquainted with that Bill, but there were not very many who were capable of appreciating the legal significance of all its clauses. There were far more people in the country made acquainted with the outlines of what the Liberal Education Bill meant. The Lords' claim is that if you put your Bill in print, get it read in the Commons, then go to the country and say it is approved, that thereupon their right of criticism goes and they are bound to pass that measure, however repugnant to their moral sense. But when another measure, which embodies principles well defined and clearly understood, comes before them they exercise their own sweet will upon it. They passed the one and rejected the other, because they said the one Bill had been in print and had been before the country, whereas the other Bill was not printed and had not been before the country. The Liberal Party could not pass any Bill to which the House of Lords objects unless they had a general election upon it, and thus you would have when the Liberal Party is in office annual Parliaments, and when a Tory Government is in power septennial Parliaments. I repeat that the present system is most unfair to the Liberal Party. Perhaps it may be said that the Liberal Party has no rights; but we think that they have rights. It would be better for the right hon. Gentleman to awake from his slumber, to take our places and form a Government, because he would be able to pass measures which, although not up to our mark, are better, perhaps, than none. He would be able, owing to his control over another place, to do what we have been unable to do. That is an argument that has been used by his followers in the constituencies. But it is obviously not a state of things which will recommend itself to our minds or to the mind of the country, which I believe is really desirous to see the scales are held fairly for all parties. The right hon. Gentleman is angry with us because he says we have put off those social reforms, upon which he has notoriously set his heart, in favour of Constitutional questions. Now, for my part, speaking as one connected with Irish administration, I deny altogether that the two Irish measures mentioned in the King's Speech are not social measures. I insist that they are social measure of the first importance. Involving a constitutional dispute as they may do, they are from my point of view root and branch social questions. The local government of Ireland is a social question; and University education is a social question. The Irish people are injured by the existing state of affairs. They are injured in their moral character by being dissociated from the government of their own country. They are injured in their intellectual stature by being deprived of University education. I say, therefore, these measures are social measures just as much as any English measures which await solution. I honestly put these measures in the very forefront; they are a first charge upon Parliamentary time, not as political questions merely, but as social questions, essential to the social regeneration of Ireland. Are we to say that the restoration of the evicted tenants to the land is not a social question? Every one who has any acquaintance with Ireland knows very well that any unsettlement there is in the country is almost entirely to be traced to this cause. Surely these questions are vital to the social well-being of Ireland, and I claim for them the rank of social questions. The noble Lord in his interesting speech referred with some emotion to that part of the Education Bill which dealt with medical inspection of the children in elementary schools, and other things of that sort, and he said with perfect truth that that part of the Bill received the support of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Perfectly true, so it did. Very well, all I can say is that I hope my successor in the Education Department will take advantage of the noble Lord's, I am sure, perfectly sincere declaration, and will bring in a Bill incorporating that uncontentious part of the Education Bill, and then we may rely on the assistance of the noble Lord in passing it. I hope my right hon. friend will take an early opportunity of introducing a Bill of that sort, which I think will pass through all its stages without any absorption of Parliamentary time. I say that the King's Speech does contain substantial promise of other measures of social reform which may be put on the Statute-book if the other place will allow it.

Then the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition speculated once again on what the contents of the Irish Bill are to be. I really must ask him to wait a little longer—he will know all the detailed provisions as soon as the Bill is placed before him—and to rest assured that it will be in his view a step towards Home Rule. The right hon. Gentleman says that he has never had any hing to do with devolution. But devolution Bills have passed this House, and there are departments and boards in Ireland to-day to which have been devolved in a manner and in some particular character most important functions and duties. Therefore I cannot understand in what sense he says that he has had nothing to do with devolution. I cannot conceive any sensible man in the present congested state of affairs in this Parliament saying that he will have nothing to do with devolution, though I am willing to believe that the right hon. Gentleman, with his dialectical skill, will proclaim our forthcoming measure to be as bad as it can possibly be. What more, then, do you want? I regret as much as any man that the Liberal Pary should ever have to be engaged in constitutional disputes. I agree that it would be far better it we lived under a Constitution which would enable us to do full justice to the demands of every question. But I am persuaded that at some time or other it will be absolutely essential for the Liberal Party, for all parties, indeed, who have at heart the welfare of the people, to deal with this subject. The Tory Party do not represent our whole wishes; we cannot all become followers of theirs. We have our own views and our own sections of people; but we find our way of making known in law the mind and the will of the people hopelessly blocked, to be made the subject of periodic revolution and frequent general elections. We should scarcely be ordinary mortals if we did not look to some other way of dealing with these questions. That is the view that the most intelligent Radicals take in all parts of the country; and I do not think, therefore, by placing Ireland in the forefront of our measures we are departing from our constitutional obligations or our pledges, or doing anything else but dealing with what we regard as one of the most pressing of social questions. As for what is to happen to my colleagues the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary for War when this measure is unfolded—well, well, let us leave that and see. It may be a very exciting Irish night if they both get up and wash their hands of this terrible measure; but I think we may, after all is said, with perfect confidence await the issue.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 111; Noes, 374. (Division List No. 4.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks-
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord E. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Chas. Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants, W.)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'r Ham.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F (Bury S. Edm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir J. H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Keswick, William
King, Sir H. Seymour (Hull)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, A. H. (Hants., Fareham)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield
Nield, Herbert
Pease, Herbert P. (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Fredrk. Peel
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield Ecclesall)
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford W. W. (Liverpool)
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)

Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hn. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Becke, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooks, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T (Chesh.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, W. H.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Edwards, Frank (Radnor)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Field, William
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Furness, Sir Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, W. Bateman (Somerset, N.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich)
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold

Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M‘Arthur, William
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Crae, George
M‘Kean, John
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M‘Laren, S. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick, A.
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murnaghan, George
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls George
Nicholson,Charles N.(Donc'st'r
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare,N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly,James(Roscommon,N.
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps,Col.Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price,Robert John (Norfolk,E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F.(Wolverhampt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson,SirG.Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Russell, T. W.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L.(Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen,E.)
Thomas,Sir A.(Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton,Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampton
Wardle, George J.
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St.Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Main Question again proposed.

Motion made, and Question, "That the debate be now adjourned"—(*Mr. Hills*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed To-morrow.

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order.

Adjourned at twenty - seven minutes before Twelve o‘clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 19th February, 1907.

ADDRESS.

The King's Answer to the Address of Tuesday last reported; and Address and Answer to be printed and published.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.

Return showing the numbers and nationalities of the passengers that left or arrived in the United Kingdom for or from places out of Europe; and the net balance of such passengers outward or inward in each month of the year 1907.

Ordered to be laid before the House (The Lord Granard (*E. Granard*)).

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions contained in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902.

ARMY.

(Estimates) — Memorandum of the Secretary of State relating to the Army Estimates for 1907–1908; Imperial Yeomanry (in Great Britain and Ireland) —Training Return, 1906.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

GREEK LOAN OF 1832.

Account for 1906.

DUCHY OF CORNWALL.

Receipts and disbursements of the Duchy of Cornwall in the year ended 31st December, 1906.

COMMITTALS (IRELAND).

Returns from the clerks of the Crown and Peace of number of persons committed for trial in 1906.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

PASSENGERS TO AND FROM PLACES OUT OF EUROPE.

Return (in part) respecting. Laid before the House (pursuant to order of this day); and to be printed. (No. 3.)

NEW BILL.

AUSTRALIAN STATES CONSTITUTION BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law relating to the reservation for His Majesty's pleasure of Bills passed by the Legislature of the States forming part of the Commonwealth of Australia, and to confirm certain Acts passed by those Legislatures—Was presented by the Lord Elgin (*E. Elgin and Kincardine*); read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 2.)

THE CABLING OF MINISTERIAL SPEECHES.

*Lord **HARRIS**: My Lords, I rise to ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies with what object he caused the Speech of the Under-Secretary of State of 18th December to be cabled to Johannesburg, and published in the Press there; and, whether he has received any, and if so, what repudiation of the allegations contained therein against the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association; and whether the Government of the Transvaal have expressed any opinion, and if so, what, on the policy of publishing the speech by order of the High Commissioner.

My object in putting down these Questions to-night is not merely to give the noble Earl an opportunity of explaining what seems to me to be rather an extraordinary proceeding on the part of the Colonial Office, but also to call your Lordships' attention to another instance of the very unusual attitude which His Majesty's Government are adopting towards our Colonies. There is scarcely an important Colony or group of Colonies or an important community in our great Dependency that has not in one short year received some affront from His Majesty's Government. We know from the recent debate in Newfoundland what feelings have been aroused in our oldest Colony; we know how, in the case of the New Hebrides, the Government have ignored

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

the wishes of the Colonies most concerned; we know that in India they have sacrificed a loyal and capable administrator to the howlings of a noisy and seditious but quite insignificant mob. But your Lordships probably do not know of the case I refer to in my Questions.

Towards the end of last session debates took place in both Houses on the subject of the Transvaal Letters Patent, and in your Lordships' House the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies expounded the views of the Government, whilst in the other House those views were set forth by the Under-Secretary. The next day, with a modesty which I think I may correctly describe as singular at the Colonial Office, the noble Earl cabled out to the High Commissioner, with strict injunctions that he was to publish it in the local Press, not his own speech, but the speech of the Under-Secretary. Now, I can quite understand the Under-Secretary feeling that any, or, indeed every part of the Empire would be the better for reading one of his speeches, but that the noble Earl, who must be pretty well satiated with these productions, should think it necessary for the Transvaal to read it is not so natural. And, again, why such extreme urgency? If the speech was of such eminent importance as to necessitate public attention being called to it in the Transvaal, it would probably reach the public ear through the ordinary channels and all in good time. But not so. The noble Earl was not satisfied with the ordinary process of public distribution of speeches, but had it cabled out. Therefore I ask the noble Earl what was his object in taking this undoubtedly unusual course.

Now, it is impossible for me to gauge the depths of the policy of His Majesty's Government towards the Transvaal. But one thing, at any rate, has been conspicuous since they came into office, and that is their animus against those who, by the election of the shareholders of the mining companies, manage the mining industry. That animus has been shown in various ways. It was displayed in the case which I several times brought before your Lordships last year, where the Government entered into a preferential confederacy with one of the Rand magnates against the rest of the industry; and of all those magnates they selected the one who, when the Transvaal was in difficulties, when the mining industry was asked to come forward and guarantee an amount of £10,000,000, would not put his name down for a single sixpence. That is the man the noble Earl selected for the preferential confederacy, with the view of doing injury to the other mining houses, as regards labour from Portuguese East Africa. Their animus in that instance is made the clearer by this fact, that whereas they, by bullying and threatening our ally, have compelled Portugal to comply most reluctantly with their wishes and have carried out their part of the bargain, their confederate, whose intentions were proclaimed with triumph by the Under-Secretary in another place, has not moved a finger to carry out any of his part of the compact.

Again, their vindictiveness has been displayed in another way. The official responsible for the introduction of the Chinese Ordinance was Sir Richard Solomon. In tones and terms of conviction he supported its introduction, and so late as the autumn of 1895 he repudiated, by comparative calculations, the allegations that the Chinese were specially unruly. He came home last year ostensibly to assist His Majesty's Government in preparing the Letters Patent. He was closeted for weeks with the noble Earl and the Under-Secretary, and he returned to the Transvaal to prove what was boasted of him, that he was the Government's best asset, and to execute an astonishing political *volte face*. My Lords, the noble Earl may protest against the suggestion that his object in cabling out the Under-Secretary's speech was to influence voters against the party to whom he has displayed this animus, but he cannot complain if his Government are judged by his actions, and after specimens of such obvious animus as I have described it is no stretch of the imagination to suppose it possible that that was the noble Earl's object.

The Witwatersrand Native Labour Association represent commercially the mining industry, and the Progressive Association represents that industry politically, and the accusations to which I am now going to call your Lordships' attention, which were included in the

Lord Harris.

Under-Secretary's speech, were directed against one or both of those bodies. I observe that it was stated last night in another place that the object of the Government in cabling out the Under Secretary's speech was their anxiety that the inhabitants of the Transvaal should have an accurate version of what the Under-Secretary had said. That may have its advantages if what the Under-Secretary says is accurate; but inasmuch as there are three, or, at any rate, two, gross inaccuracies in this statement I confess I do not see that the answer was sufficient to satisfy most people. The publication was made on 22nd December, and that part of it to which I desire to call your Lordships' attention is this—

> "We could not view without anxiety the concentration of the whole black labour supply in the hands of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association."

That, without the context—and I am not sure that the context is quite clear—might be read by unobservant people as referring to the whole labour supply of South Africa. I imagine that the Under-Secretary could not have been so inaccurate as to intend that. He was referring to the Portuguese supply, for it is only as regards Portuguese territory that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has the monopoly of recruiting. Over the whole of the rest of South Africa everybody has equal opportunities, except in certain parts where the mining industry is not allowed to recruit. That is one of the —well, doubtful accuracies.

The Under-Secretary went on to refer to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association as—

> "That powerful body which exerts such immense influence on local politics, and which in a hundred ways has woven itself into all the apparatus of economic and social life in Johannesburg."

Local politics, your Lordships will observe, are specially referred to. He continued—

> "This body, which has a tremendous and sinister control over the local Press."

Now, where is the proof that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association exercises influence over the Press? And why sinister? If the association does attempt to defend itself in the Press I suppose it is no different from any other labour or political organisation. But why sinister? I do not suppose that the defence of the Government's policy in the Radical Press could be correctly described as sinister. Mr. Churchill went on to say, referring to the association—

> "This body, whose influence may sometimes be traced even in the columns of some of our leading newspapers, was given by the Chamber of Mines the power of turning off or on as a tap the supply of native labour."

That is a distinct allegation that the association has "doctored" the labour returns for its own purposes. I challenge the noble Earl to produce one single atom of proof to show that that is so.

Here, then, are two statements. One of them I contradict flatly, and the other is contradicted very flatly indeed by the *Transvaal Leader*, one of the principal newspapers in South Africa. This journal, in a leading article, remarks—

> "The cable under notice constitutes the gravest piece of impertinence yet voiced by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies. Mr. Churchill says that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association 'has a tremendous and sinister control over the local Press.' As far as the *Leader* is concerned we characterise this statement as a deliberate lie, and we regret we have to use such language as regards a Minister of the Crown. The second statement is that the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association has been 'given by the Chamber of Mines the power of turning off or on as a tap the supply of native labour.' We know enough to characterise that as being—well, worse than a terminological inexactitude."

The association thus impugned took legal opinion, and counsel advised that the statements were libellous. Of course, the noble Earl and the Under-Secretary are quite safe. They shelter themselves behind privilege. But the person who had to put this speech in the papers was a junior official. He undoubtedly could have been prosecuted for libel. The association, of course, was not going to trouble itself about small fry, and therefore the only way of calling attention to these remarkable proceedings is in Parliament.

I submit that for the British Government to attack one of the political Parties in a Colony immediately before a general election is unprecedented; and that if it were attempted in the case of any self-governing Colony the British Government would have been told some truths in plain language. I observe that in the Answer which was given last night in another place it was stated that very probably the noble Earl would resort to the same thing again. Well, with a responsible Government in the Transvaal I should not be surprised if there, too, he receives rather a rough reply if he tries to do something which, whether intentional or not, may have the effect of influencing political voters.

It was not enough that the pro-British Party should have been deprived of four seats which they were justly entitled to on the voters' roll as compiled by Government officials—deprived, so far as we understand, on an allegation which there is no attempt whatever to prove; it was not enough that thousands of British workmen should have been deprived of those seats which they were entitled to; but the Government must also go out of their way to publish these libellous and inaccurate accusations, well calculated, whether so intended or not, to influence voters previous to a general election.

Finally, I have to ask whether the Transvaal Government have passed any Resolution or conveyed to the noble Earl in any other form their opinion on the publication of that speech? The noble Earl, in a burst of confidence last year on another matter, told us he had nothing whatever to conceal. I observe, however, that he has taken care not to present to Parliament one solitary Paper on that subject since he made that statement, notwithstanding that cables and other communications must have been passing in quantities between His Majesty's Government and the Portuguese authorities. We are still as much in the dark as to the process by which Portugal has been induced to give way upon that point as we were when I first raised the subject. I hope, however, that the noble Earl will have nothing to conceal on this occasion, but will tell us what the Transvaal Government think of the proceedings which I have taken the liberty of bringing to your Lordships' notice to-night.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, my noble friend has attributed to me more modesty than I can claim, for as a matter of fact the telegram to which he has called your Lordships' attention was really only a part of a considerably longer telegram, the greater portion of which consisted of statements made by me in my place in your Lordships' House. If I were to take the Question as it appears on the Paper, my reply would be very simple indeed. Answering the last part first I will say that as far as I can ascertain no communication of any kind has reached the Colonial Office from the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association or the Transvaal Government in respect of the speech to which the noble Lord has referred.

With regard to the first part of the Question, I have to say that we took the course we did for the reason given in another place last night, that the telegram was sent in order to secure the full and accurate presentation of words used in Parliament instead of the condensations which are necessary in Press telegrams. Of course, it is perfectly open to the Government to embody in a despatch any important statement they may consider it necessary to make in Parliament, but on this occasion we were aware that very great attention would be paid to the actual statements made. We knew it from experience. When the previous statements with regard to the Transvaal Constitution were made in both Houses in July, we did not send the telegram at once though we had it under consideration, and we were immediately inundated by requests from the Transvaal for information as to what actually was said. In these circumstances we thought that the cabling out to South Africa of the actual words used by responsible Ministers in the two Houses of Parliament, the precise words they used and nothing more, could not be seriously said to be taking an unfair political advantage. I have to say, with regard to the statement which the noble Lord says was made in another place last night, that if a similar emergency arose I am not sure that I should not wish to take the same course again. It is not every day that we have to frame Constitutional instruments of the importance of Letters Patent and to present them to Parliament. Therefore I quite admit that, though the process adopted is a perfectly legitimate process in certain circumstances, it is not one that should be brought into frequent use.

With regard to the greater part of the noble Lord's speech to-night, I would like to say that it is a very good illustration of the inconvenience which arises out of a practice in your Lordships' House. In another place the Question would have been put and answered, and there the matter would have been at an end; but the noble Lord has brought up a variety of subjects which I do not think are even indicated in the Question as placed upon the Paper, and many of them have reference to explanations of phrases not used by myself, to which I am asked to reply. I may frankly say that I am not sure that if the particular matter in the telegram to which the noble Lord has referred had stood by itself, I should have classed it in the category of subjects to which the practice of cabling would justly apply; but I was compelled to act otherwise by the action of the noble Lord himself. The noble Lord has on two or three occasions brought this particular matter before this House, and my hon. friend who represents the Colonial Office in another place was challenged upon it in the course of the debate by the late Secretary of State for the Colonies. In these circumstances we did think that it was desirable that those in the Colony who were interested in the matter should know the view held by the Government, *i.e.*, that, while not in any way imputing malpractices to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association in the matter of recruiting, we were not sure that disadvantages did not result—that in fact we thought that disadvantages were connected with any assertion of monopoly. It was to bring that out, and that only, that we took our stand in connection with the subject, and I do not think I can be fairly asked to answer here for particular phrases used by my hon. friend in the other House, not in his main statement but in reply after debate. My hon. friend is very well able to take care of himself, and if any attack is to be made upon him in reference to language he has used, it should be made in the place where he could reply.

I really do not think that I ought to take up your Lordships' time by again entering upon the question that has already been debated between myself and my noble friend with regard to the licence to Mr. Robinson. I have always admitted that the method of the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association was an immense improvement on the practice that obtained before, but I have also maintained, and I will just repeat it, that the association being voluntary, we must maintain the right of any member to leave it, and if any member of sufficient *status* decides to leave the association and comes to the Government with a request that a licence should be obtained for him separately, I do not quite see the ground on which it should be refused. Mr. Robinson, therefore, got a licence, but, as the noble Lord knows very well, difficulties arose after that licence was issued; and as to the noble Lord's imputation that I have been keeping back Papers, I have but to say that the arrangement with the Portuguese Government has only just been completed. The terms of that arrangement were announced in another place, but perhaps your Lordships will allow me to state what that arrangement is. The Portuguese Government, whose readiness to meet their wishes in the matter is recognised by His Majesty's Government, have agreed to the appointment of a joint Commission to inquire and report what system of recruiting and distributing natives from Portuguese East Africa will ensure the largest and most continuous supply of labour to the mines of the Transvaal, provided that—1. Such natives are recruited voluntarily and are subjected to the most humane treatment (*a*) at the point of recruitment; (*b*) on the road; and (*c*) at the point of employment. 2. That the conditions are such as are compatible with the satisfactory and economic working of the mines. 3. That no detriment accrues to the political interests of the Transvaal or of the Province of Mozambique. On the day of the meeting of the Commission, which will be fixed at as early a date as possible, the Portuguese Government have agreed to denounce their agreement with the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. I understand that Mr. Holmes, who represents Mr. Robinson, is at liberty to engage natives under the licence granted to him, and that the facilities accorded him have lately been extended, but it is not clear how far he has yet availed himself of these facilities. In reply to the direct Question of the noble Lord, I will consider whether, and to what extent, Papers on that subject can be laid.

I do not think it is necessary for me to do more than to disclaim any of the animus which the noble Lord has imputed to me personally, or to His Majesty's Government. But I do think I ought to say a word in reference to another who is not in this country to defend himself. Sir Richard Solomon has done great work for the Crown in South Africa. He came to this country, the noble Lord says, ostensibly to assist in the preparation of the Letters Patent, but I believe really on leave of absence for one short spell in his long period of arduous service; but that he did assist, and assist greatly, in the preparation of the Letters Patent I am the first to acknowledge. I am not the man to make defence for any political action which he may have thought fit to take on his return to South Africa. All that I would say on that matter is that I am perfectly certain Sir Richard Solomon will be well able to defend his own honour.

I do not know that I have anything more to say in answer to the noble Lord. I maintain that the object which we had in view in sending the telegram in question to South Africa was a legitimate one, and that the means which we took to publish the real statement of the case was also a legitimate one. I hope, therefore, that your Lordships will not disapprove of our action.

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I do not know whether your Lordships will consider that the statement to which we have just listened is a complete or satisfactory explanation of what my noble friend, I think, very properly described as the extraordinary proceeding to which he called our attention. We are placed at some disadvantage in discussing the matter, because no Papers are before us. We have learned incidentally from the Secretary of State for the Colonies that the particular telegram in which the publication of the Under-Secretary's speech was directed contained also a direction that the noble Earl's own speech, or part of his own speech, should be simultaneously published. I am glad to hear that, because it seems to me at least conceivable that the oratory of the Under-Secretary when intended for Colonial consumption would be improved by a reasonable amount of dilution with the oratory of the noble Earl.

But to me it is entirely new that speeches delivered in Parliament by Ministers should be converted at once through the agency of the telegraph into State papers for the information of the great Colonies. I would venture to suggest that the style and manner of a speech delivered in the heat of debate does not always suit itself exactly to conversion into a State paper such as I have described, and that I cannot help thinking would hold true particularly of the Parliamentary style of the particular official whose utterances we are discussing this evening. The extracts which my noble friend has quoted certainly contained passages which were of a somewhat vitriolic description; and there can be no doubt whatever that those passages have given very great offence in the Colony.

We have, moreover, a right to consider whom it is that these charges are levelled at. The Under-Secretary singled out for his denunciation the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Now I understand that this association is really more or less identical with the Chamber of Mines, and that it comprises nearly all the most influential and respectable British residents interested in the great South African mining industry—men many of whom have been staunch and tried friends of this country, men who stood by us and submitted to great sacrifices in the interests of the Empire during the trying times through which we have had to pass. Is it right, my Lords, that persons of that kind should be told that they belong to a body which exercises a sinister control over the local Press, and which exercises an influence—I presume also a sinister influence—over the Press in this country? These charges are resented, and naturally resented.

The noble Earl told us, or so I understood him, that the complaint of his

Majesty's Government was that this association controlled a monopoly of the labour supply. That may be a very fair observation to make. But it was not necessary to add that the monopoly is exercised in the manner imputed to them by the Under-Secretary, who charged them, as I understand, with having used their opportunities for the purpose of starving the labour market when it suited them to do so, and of flooding the labour market at other moments when it suited their convenience. And pray remember that these charges were made on the eve of the general election. Is that a moment when charges of that kind should be made in this manner ?

I must say the whole occurrence seems to me to be a most regrettable one, and I cannot help thinking that His Majesty's Ministers would do well to recollect the advice which has been given to them on more than one occasion by a member of this House who knows South Africa better than any of us, and whose absence tonight I regret. I refer to Lord Milner In an admirable article from his pen which recently appeared in one of the magazines there is a passage in which he warned us that the most dangerous way of healing race cleavage in South Africa is by uniting both parties in a common antipathy to the Mother Country. He pointed out that gentlemen connected with the mining industry in South Africa had been reviled as a pack of greedy adventurers, or as the tools of such adventurers, engaged in a mere soulless scramble for material wealth. And the moral he drew was this—

> "We are losing friends every day, and we cannot afford to lose them."

Depend upon it, my Lords, if these charges are made in the heedless manner in which they have been made by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, the effect of it will be that we shall lose in South Africa friends whom the Empire can ill afford to lose.

The LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of Ripon): My Lords, I do not think that my noble friend opposite has any just ground for complaint in the course taken by my noble friend the Secretary for the Colonies in regard to these telegrams. That course was not so extraordinary as my noble friend seems to think. I believe there are precedents for it. I know of one myself. Anybody who has had experience of the way in which speeches made in Parliament are often telegraphed abroad will think it very natural that my noble friend should have arranged that the speeches made by him and the Under-Secretary on such an important matter should be transmitted to South Africa as they were actually delivered.

If I might venture without impertinence to give an incident in my own experience, I remember when I was Secretary of State for the Colonies having had occasion to answer a question dealing with Africa and relating to the annexation of two or three small native *quasi*-independent States on the east coast. Reports had appeared in regard to these matters with which those who sent the telegrams were not well acquainted, and knowing how delicate the matter was, I thought it much better not to trust to Reuter telegrams, and sent, just as my noble friend did on this occasion, in my own language what had passed in the House, and the reasons which I had given for the course which the then Government had adopted. I do not think, therefore, that the matter is one to which exception can fairly be taken. I do not say it is a practice to be constantly followed, but I do think it is very important, in these days of telegraphic communication, that in delicate questions the Government should avail themselves of any opportunity, any means, they may have of securing that what they really did say is transmitted abroad to the parties who might be interested.

I am not surprised that my noble friend is not very fond of the remarkable and powerful eloquence of the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies; my hon. friend Mr. Winston Churchill is, no doubt, a powerful speaker and perhaps, not always a very agreeable speaker to those to whom he is opposed, because his statements are not only powerful but very straight. On this occasion I have not had the opportunity of referring to the speech made by my hon. friend, and therefore can only say that I do not think my noble friend the Secretary of

State would have taken steps to have anything published in the Transvaal which was open to the objections that have been taken on this occasion.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, the noble Marquess the Leader of the House has, I think prudently and skilfully, departed from the grounds that were stated to your Lordships as those on which this matter was brought to the notice of the House. The noble Marquess referred to an occasion in his long and distinguished political career when he thought it necessary to guard against inaccuracies by publishing his own well-considered words; and the noble Earl the Secretary of State for the Colonies has informed the House that he also published, on the occasion referred to by my noble friend Lord Harris, his own words in regard to this matter—words which, I am sure, were marked by that caution which is one of the characteristics of the land from which he comes. But surely your Lordships are not going to contrast what the noble Marquess may have deemed it necessary to wire to another part of the world in order to prevent misconception, and what the noble Earl the Colonial Secretary deemed it right to do in reference to his own cautious words, with the observations made in another place by one who, whatever his gifts, has not the characteristic I have referred to.

The telegram in question was a most exceptional one. It is not a common practice to wire to other parts of the Empire speeches made by Ministers in Parliament; but when that course is followed great care should be taken that the time selected and the method adopted are not open to grave criticism. The Minister responsible for such an extraordinary departure from usual practice should take care that what is wired out is accurate and not open to the serious objections stated in your Lordships' House this afternoon in very plain language by my noble friend. The noble Earl confessed that the words to which special criticism was directed were not used in the main statement of the Under-Secretary, but in a supplementary reply. I suppose that fact was intended as a kind of extenuation and mitigation of the words; if not, I fail to see the noble Earl's point in mentioning it. But is it an extenuation or mitigation? The noble Earl was responsible for this cable. He must have read, not only his own words, but also the words of the Under-Secretary which he directed to be included; and one would have expected that the noble Earl would consider whether those words, used on the eve of a general election, the possible outcome of which all South Africa was discussing, were suitable words to be cabled at that time. I think that is a matter of grave importance.

The noble Earl has not attempted to say one word in justification, if that be possible, of the language used. He may speak again by the permission of the House, and I should like to ask him whether he thinks it becoming that such language should be used at such a time about an important body such as the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association. Does he think it proper that at such a time, when keen political feeling existed, such language as that complained of should be used in Parliament and cabled to the Colony? The noble Earl has reserved to himself the right to take similar action in the future, but I venture to hope that cables of this kind that may be sent out hereafter will be more carefully scrutinized and that we shall be spared repetitions of debates like the present.

House adjourned at twenty-five minutes past Five o'clock, to Thursday next, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 19th February, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPILED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.: Great Northern and City Railway Bill; Cardiff Railway Bill.

Ordered, that the Bills be read a second time.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill; Brighouse Corporation Bill; Bude Gas Bill; Keswick Urban District Council (Water) Bill; King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill; Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill; Leeds Corporation Bill; Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill; Penrith Urban District Council Bill; Sunderland Corporation Bill. Read a second time and committed.

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill. "To confirm a Provisional Order under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, relating to Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation)," presented by Mr. Sinclair, and (under Section 7 of the Act) ordered to be considered upon Thursday.

PETITIONS.

LAND VALUES (ASSESSMENT AND RATING).

Petition from Chester, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petition from Barrow-on-Soar, in favour; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

WARLIKE OPERATIONS (KILLED AND WOUNDED).

Return [presented 15th February]; to be printed. [No. 25.]

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions in the Order in Council of 6th March 1902 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 26.]

COMMITTALS (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Returns from the Clerks of the Crown and Peace of the number of persons committed for trial in 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND REGISTRY (NEW BUILDINGS) ACT, 1900.

Account presented, showing the Money issued from the Consolidated Fund, under the provisions of The Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900, and of the Expenditure; the Money expended and borrowed and the securities created under the said Act, for the period ended the 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 27.]

PUBLIC OFFICES SITE (DUBLIN) ACT, 1903.

Account presented, showing the money issued from the Consolidated Fund under the provisions of The Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903, and of the Expenditure; the money expended and borrowed and the securities created under the said Act for the period ended the 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 28.]

WOODS, FORESTS, AND LAND REVENUES.

Abstract accounts presented, for the year ended 31st March, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 29.]

DUCHY OF CORNWALL.

Account presented, of the Receipts and Disbursements of the Duchy of Cornwall for the year ended 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 30.]

GREEK LOAN.

Account presented, up to 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 31.]

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented, of Postal Agreement for an Exchange of Money Orders between the Post Office of Great Britain and Ireland and the Post Office of the Dutch Colony of Surinam, dated the 29th April–7th November, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (MEMORANDUM ON ESTIMATES).

Copy presented, of Memorandum of the Secretary of State relating to the Army Estimates of 1907–8 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

Copy presented, of Army Estimates of Effective and Non-Effective Services for the year 1907–8 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 32.]

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION (METROPOLITAN BUILDING ESTATES, PUBLIC HOUSES).

Address for "Return of the areas forming parts of the Metropolitan Estates of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners for England let for Building purposes, and of the numbers of Public Houses thereon (superseding the Table contained in House of Lords Return, No. 175, of Session 1883)."—(*Mr. Stuart-Wortley.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Tinned Meat Rations in the Navy.

Mr. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether tinned meat rations are carried on all ships in the Royal Navy, but that it is optional for messes to draw them unless at sea or on occasions when fresh meat cannot be obtained; that in order to ensure a reasonable turnover of stocks in hand the Admiralty, about twelve months ago, published a letter ordering this ration to be served to ships' companies one day a week, and that this has been regularly carried out ever since; whether, since the Chicago disclosures, this tinned meat is not generally used by the messes, and a sum of from 2s. to 3s. per week wasted to the mess in consequence; and, if so, will their Lordships be good enough to cause inquiries to be made, with a view to some action being taken in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, when the Chicago disclosures attracted public attention in June last the seamen, in common with the rest of the community, manifested considerable disinclination to consume corned beef of United States origin. The entire stocks of meat of this description in his Majesty's ships were accordingly withdrawn, and supplies of Australian or Argentine meat supplied in lieu, the men in the interim being given the option of taking full savings. No complaints have since been received.

Extra Pay to Naval Stokers Performing Clerical Duties.

Mr. BRAMSDON: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty, having regard to the fact that the Admiralty about three years ago granted the extra pay of 6d. per day to stoker ratings performing the clerical duties to the engineer officer of certain ships of the fleet, and that in some ships with nucleus crews this pay is being withheld although the duties are equal with nucleus and full complements, whether their Lordships will consider if they can arrange for this apparent inconsistency to be remedied.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative, subject to certain conditions being fulfilled. The allowance is paid in such nucleus crew ships as are considered to comply with the conditions. The question whether the allowance should be paid depends upon whether the clerical duties are such as to call for the grant of extra pay. The extension of the allowance to certain nucleus crew ships not hitherto allowed it is now under consideration.

Enniskillen Mail Service.

Mr. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will consider the advisability of making arrangements whereby the Scottish mail for Enniskillen should arrive there earlier than 11.25 a.m.; and whether, seeing that the mail arrives in Belfast at 5 a.m. and is despatched for Enniskillen at 7.30, he is aware that if the mail was sent *via* Armagh and Clones it could catch at Clones the early mail train from Dublin, and so reach Enniskillen much earlier.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that Scottish letters for Enniskillen arrive there at 11.25 a.m. and are not delivered in the town till between 2.30 and 3 o'clock p.m.; can he say why the town people of Enniskillen are not allowed to get the Scottish letters at the post office by calling for them without payment of one guinea a year, while residents in the adjoining country can get them without charge if they call; and will he either remove the charge to the town people or make arrangements to have the letters delivered earlier.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) This mail is already sent to Enniskillen by way of Armagh and Clones, and I regret to say that, without a rearrangement of the train service throughout from Belfast, it is not practicable to effect an earlier arrival of the mail at Enniskillen. As regards the delivery at Enniskillen, I am sorry to find that, owing to a misapprehension, the delivery to callers was discontinued for a few weeks; but it has now, I understand, been resumed.

Hours of Closing of Post Office Savings Banks.

MR. WILES (Islington, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will consider the advisability of arranging for Savings Bank business to be transacted after 8 p.m. at those post offices which at present are open after that hour for the transaction of other business, so that better facilities may be afforded for the safe custody of the funds of friendly and other societies which collect large sums during the evening.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I will consider the question, and will communicate with the hon. Member later.

Telephone System at Robertsbridge, Sussex.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will take steps, subject to the necessary local support, to establish a telephone system in Robertsbridge, Sussex, and thereby to connect together the existing telephone systems which already reach and include the adjoining parishes of Hawkhurst, Ticehurst, and Battle.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I shall be glad to establish a telephone service in Robertsbridge if the necessary support is forthcoming. Estimates in respect of the extension are being prepared. The proposal is to include Robertsbridge on the Hawkhurst system. It cannot be included on the same system as Ticehurst or Battle, as those places are in the National Telephone Company's Tunbridge Wells and Hastings areas, respectively.

The Colonial Audit Branch Staff.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he will state the year in which the Colonial Audit Branch in London was first placed under the Comptroller and Auditor General; whether during that and subsequent years up to 1906 new entrants had to pass any kind of a Civil Service examination; and whether the *status* and scale of pay of new entrants for several years prior to 1906 were identical with the *status* and scale of pay of Second Division clerks.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Colonial Audit Branch in London was formed in January 1889. Some of the clerks were originally in the Second Division of the Home Civil Service, and in some cases appointments have been made from officials already in the Colonial service; but the majority of candidates appointed in recent years have been selected, without Civil Service examination, from graduates of the Universities upon the recommendation of the Joint Universities Board. While serving in London, pending selection for service in the Colonies, the scale of pay has been identical with that of Second Division clerks. As already stated, in reply to the hon. Member on the 20th December last,† this branch is in process of amalgamation with the Exchequer and Audit Department.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1684.

Rights of Zemindars of South India.

Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that not only do the ancient Zemindars of South India protest that their immemorial and judicially recognised rights will be seriously infringed and curtailed by the Estates Land Bill now before the Legislative Council of the Governor of Madras, and that several provisions of this Bill will in fact alter entirely to their prejudice the provisions of their permanent sanads, but that many Europeans and others, companies and individuals, who have entered into contracts with such Zemindars, and have invested capital in Zemindaris on the faith of the permanency of the permanent settlement, apprehend that they too are likely to suffer great loss by the above-mentioned Bill, should it become law; and whether, in view of these facts, he will consider the propriety of advising the Government of Madras, the head of which has not long since taken office, to postpone the consideration of this subject till the next session of its Legislative Council.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Bill is at present under my consideration, and I am not in a position to make any statement on the subject; but the representation to which the hon. Member alludes will not be lost sight of.

Return of Estates in Land Judge's Court.

Mr. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will grant the Return relating to estates in the Land Judge's Court of which notice stands on the Order Paper.†

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I have communicated with the Land Judge upon the subject of this proposed Return. The learned Judge is prepared to give a Return in continuation of Parliamentary Return No. 264 of last year (Return of Estates in Land Judges Court over which Receivers have been appointed). This Return covers the first three headings of the Return now suggested by the hon. Member. As to the remainder of the Return, the Judge considers that, for reasons which I have communicated to the hon. Member, it would not be possible to give the details asked for.

The Comptroller and Auditor General.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Prime Minister whether, for several years past, the appointments to the position of Comptroller and Auditor General have been in the nature of selections by the Treasury from amongst permanent civil servants; and, if so, whether there was any arrangement of any kind between the Treasury and Sir Richard Mills, or Mr. Richmond, or Mr. Kempe, when either of these gentlemen was appointed to the Comptroller and Auditor Generalship, whereby retirement on pension was fixed at a certain time or when the Treasury should desire it.

(*Answered by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*) I must refer the hon. Member to the Answer which I gave to his Question on this subject on the 20th December last and to the Answer given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the hon. Member for Northampton on the 6th December last.‡

Prize Courts and The Hague Tribunal.

Mr. ARNOLD HERBERT (Buckinghamshire, Wycombe): To ask the Prime Minister if His Majesty's Government will instruct the British representatives at the forthcoming Hague Conference to press upon the Powers the adoption of an international agreement providing for an ultimate appeal from all prize courts to the Hague Tribunal.

(*Answered by Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman.*) This subject is not one of those expressly included in the Russian programme, but it will not be lost sight of, and has, in fact, already been mentioned by His Majesty's Government as a subject which might be included. I cannot, however, make statements about the instructions to be given to the British representatives as long as discussions about the programme are still proceeding.

---

† "Return, by counties, of the estates for sale on the 31st day of December 1906, in the Land Judge's Court, over which receivers have been appointed, showing the title of estate; number of agricultural holdings; rental of agricultural holdings; area untenanted; date when last offered for sale; whether to tenants or to Estates Commissioners; amount bid if any; capital value, if ascertained by Commissioners; reason for not selling."

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1696; clxvi., 1155.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Greenwich Age Pensions.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, taking into consideration the fact that last year as many as 3,580 naval pensioners did not receive any Greenwich age-pensions, although qualified to receive them, that the average age of those actually receiving them was sixty-three years, that many deserving cases cannot be entertained owing to want of funds, and that the non-receipt by qualified Greenwich age-pensioners of the amounts which they believe are due to them is a long-standing grievance among them, their Lordships will be good enough to arrange for satisfaction to be accorded them in the matter.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Naval pensioners who may be eligible for Greenwich Hospital age-pensions are not entitled to them unless there are funds available. The whole of the amount now available (£100,900 per annum) is expended, and the Admiralty can hold out no hope of being able to supplement it from Navy votes.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): Can the right hon. Gentleman state the amount by which the Treasury supplement the fund, which is admittedly insufficient, and will he approach the Treasury with a view to secure an increase?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON was understood to say that the present contribution was about £16,000. As to the second part of the question he was afraid that the answer already given covered that.

Wages in the Royal Dockyards.

MR. BRAMSDON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he will state what amount remains unexpended out of the sum of £60,000 appropriated last year for increasing the wages in the Royal Dockyards; and, in the event of there being a balance so unexpended whether their Lordships intend to appropriate the same amongst last year's petitioners; and, if so, in what manner; and whether they will take into consideration first those cases where no concessions or only partial concessions were granted.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: My hon. friend is under a misapprehension in supposing that a sum of £60,000 was appropriated for increase in the Dockyard wages. This figure is the approximate annual cost of the increases recently granted. There is consequently no question of any unappropriated balance.

Rosyth.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he can now state the intentions of the Government with regard to the speedy completion of the proposed naval base at Rosyth.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Navy Estimates will be circulated by the beginning of March, and pending their discussion I am not in a position to make any statement.

The Channel Fleet.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if he has received any official report from Admiral Lord Charles Beresford as to the sufficiency of the Channel Fleet; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in consequence of the report.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Admiralty must, in the interest of the public service, decline to allow their confidential communications with the officers of the Fleet to be the subject of Parliamentary inquiry.

MR. HUNT asked whether, in view of the fact that the Home Fleet was the reserve fleet, there were, in the case of invasion, only fourteen battleships——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That Question does not arise out of the reply given.

MR. STANLEY WILSON (Yorkshire, E.R., Holderness): Is it a fact that the

German fleet in the North Sea will be stronger in number of battleships——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That Question also does not arise out of the answer of the right hon. Gentleman.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): Will the hon. Gentleman take into consideration the cases of both these hon. Members in filling up the post of Lord High Admiral?

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the strength of the Channel Fleet is to be increased beyond the fourteen battleships, four armoured cruisers and three unarmoured cruisers, at which it was fixed last month; and whether the original arrangement by which all the destroyers were attached to the Home Fleet, and therefore independent of Lord Charles Beresford's command, still holds good.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The reply to the first part of the Question is in the negative, and in reply to the second part of the Question the original arrangement holds goods, and the destroyers will from time to time be placed at the disposal of the Commander-in-Chief, Channel Fleet, for tactical exercises.

MR. BELLAIRS: Will Lord Charles Beresford be given any additional cruisers to handle when and for so long as he likes, although they may not be nominally attached to the Channel Fleet?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: I must ask for notice.

Naval Shipbuilding Contracts.

MR. BELLAIRS: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is proposed to submit to the Public Accounts Committee an explanation as to why the three large armoured cruisers of the "Invincible" class were ordered from three selected firms without any opportunity being given to other firms to send in competitive tenders.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Any explanation or information desired by the Public Accounts Committee will be given as a matter of course.

The Militia.

LORD J. JOICEY-CECIL (Lincolnshire, Stamford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to reduce the number of Militia battalions; and, if so, which battalions it is proposed to do away with.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE WAR OFFICE (Mr. BUCHANAN, Perthshire, E.): The Secretary of State intends to make a full statement on this subject next week in introducing the Army Estimates.

Egypt—Cattle for the Troops—Method of Slaughter.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet taken any steps to secure the adoption of a humane method of slaughtering the cattle required for the use of the British troops in Egypt.

MR. BUCHANAN: The General Officer Commanding, Egypt, has made very careful inquiries into the matter and reports that all cattle at Cairo and Alexandria are slaughtered at the Egyptian Government abattoirs and under the supervision of the Egyptian Government officials. They are slaughtered in accordance with Mahomedan practice which alone prevails in Egypt. Unconsciousness is instantaneous and death ensues in a few seconds. The system of inspection is most careful and every effort is made to ensure the avoidance of cruelty.

Discharges of Consumptive Soldiers.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if soldiers suffering from tubercle of the lungs are discharged, and a notification is then sent to the medical officer of health of the town to which the patient is proceeding, asking that officer to keep the patient under supervision; and, if so, whether the Government will consider the advisability of providing a consumption sanatorium at which a soldier who is not altogether hopeless might be received and treated, the danger of infection thus being lessened, and a soldier given a much better chance of recovery on account of the professional treatment he would thus receive at such an institution compared with the facilities in an ordinary worker's home.

MR. BUCHANAN: A notification is sent, in accordance with the Medical Regulations, to the medical officer of health of the town in which the soldier discharged on account of tubercle of the lung intends to reside. This notice is sent in the public interest, and is not intended to be a request to keep the man under supervision. The question of the provision of a sanatorium for soldiers invalided out of the service for consumption has been very fully considered, and the scheme has been found impracticable.

COLONEL SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): Is the hon. Gentleman aware that a great number of men are thus invalided out of the Army for consumption, and as Netley Hospital is unfitted for their reception, would it not be possible for the War Office to arrange for their being admitted into private sanatoria instead of sending them to their homes?

MR. BUCHANAN: The War Office do endeavour to do that now.

Colonial Tinned Meat for the Army.

MR. HUNT: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether in the next contract for tinned meat for the British Army he will give the Colonies the first chance of supplying it, as there have been no complaints in respect to their methods of manufacture or packing, such as has been the case with foreign meat in the past.

MR. BUCHANAN: Tenders are invited and have been from time to time accepted from Colonial firms for tinned meat. In anticipation of an increased demand, and our desire to widen the area of supply, we have dispatched a special officer to Australia and New Zealand to examine the packing establishments of these Colonies and report as to their methods of manufacture and their capacity for giving us a larger supply than they do at present.

War Office Contracts and Fair Wages.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of complaints made that Messrs. Arundle, builders and contractors, Bradford, have not observed the rules and conditions of work and wages in the building trade in connection with military barracks work at Preston and Manchester; whether this firm undertook to conform to any established provisions regarding work and wages; and whether he will state the terms of the provisions which such Government contractors are asked to accept.

MR. BUCHANAN: The contracts with Messrs. Arundle contain the usual fair wages clause. Special inquiries have been made with regard to the works at Preston and Manchester carried on by that firm, and it appears that the provisions of their contract have been duly observed by them.

MR. BUCHANAN further stated that the clause was the same in all Government contracts.

Deaths of Militia Officers at Fleetwood Camp.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Report upon the deaths of Militia officers at Fleetwood Camp from typhoid fever is ready yet.

MR. BUCHANAN: The Report is complete. It is not proposed to circulate it as a Parliamentary Paper, but the Secretary of State will be glad to show it to my hon. friend.

China and the Indian Opium Trade.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any proposals have been made by the Government of China regarding the future importation of Indian opium; and, if so, whether he is in a position to state their purport and indicate the tenor of the action of His Majesty's Government thereon.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The reply to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative. The proposals were stated with substantial accuracy in the telegram from Pekin in *The Times* of 25th December. They have been put forward as a basis for discussion. His Majesty's Government intends to enter upon this as soon as the views of the Government of India have been received. A despatch is on its way.

Judicial Floggings in India.

SIR HENRY COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether any report has been received from the Government of India regarding the prevalence and character of judicial floggings in India; and, if so, whether orders have been passed on that Report; and whether there is any objection to laying Papers upon the Table.

MR. MORLEY: I have addressed a despatch to the Government of India on the subject of flogging, and I am informed that I shall probably receive their reply in about a month's time.

Flogging in Rangoon Gaol.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the fact than an under-trial prisoner in the Rangoon Gaol has been lately sentenced by the superintendent of the gaol to a flogging of thirty lashes for making a maliciously false charge against a prisoner in the gaol; and whether he will inquire into the case with a view to ensuring that prisoners awaiting trial shall, if they commit offences under the penal code, be tried and punished by the criminal courts and not by the departmental prison authorities.

MR. MORLEY: I have seen a newspaper report of the case mentioned. It is alleged that the prisoner had brought a very serious charge against a fellow-prisoner, which charge was proved on investigation to be maliciously false. Under the Burma Gaol rules, criminal prisoners awaiting trial are subject to the prison rules as to offences and punishments so far as is necessary for the maintenance of gaol discipline, and the offence in this case was one with which the gaol superintendent is authorised to deal. I am calling for an official report of the circumstances.

Whipping in Burmah.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the number of cases in which persons are sentenced to whipping in Burma, amounting in 1904 to 2,863, a number which in comparison with the population exceeds that which prevails in other parts of India; and whether he will inquire into the prevalence of judicial floggings in Burma with a view of reducing their number.

MR. MORLEY: Theft and other offences punishable by whipping are alleged to be particularly prevalent in Burma, and the number of persons sentenced to whipping, though high in proportion to the population, is lower than in several other provinces in proportion to the number of such offences.

Indian Factory Labour Inquiry.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Indian whether the expert sent out to examine factories in India will remain in that country through the hot weather and rains as well as during the cold season, in order to the necessary appreciation of the various conditions of Indian factory labour under various climatic conditions.

MR. MORLEY: The Answer is in the negative. It is anticipated that the inquiry will be completed within the next two months, and it is very desirable that the results should be in the hands of the Government of India with as little delay as possible.

Indian Gold Standard Reserve.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the Government of India proposes that any further portion of the gold standard reserve should be held in silver; and, if so, whether the opinion of the Chambers of Commerce and of other mercantile bodies will be invited before definite and final action in this behalf is taken.

MR. MORLEY: The silver portion of the gold reserve fund is limited to £4,000,000 (600 lakhs of rupees). There is no intention of extending this limit.

Arabic Professorship in Agra and Oudh.

DR. HAZEL (West Bromwich): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether it has been proposed to appoint a German professor of Arabic to the educational service of the united provinces of Agra and Oudh, for attachment to the Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh; and whether he will bear in mind the feeling that prevails in India in favour of the appointment of a competent Indian Mahomedan scholar to the post.

MR. MORLEY: No appointment to the Indian Educational Department is involved. The Mahomedan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh is a private institution in receipt of a grant-in-aid from Government. I understand that the trustees of the College, who are all Indian Mahomedan gentlemen, have selected a German scholar for the post of Professor of Arabic, and an Indian scholar for that of Assistant Professor. I cannot undertake to interfere in any way with their discretion.

Bombay Licensing Regulations.

MR. HERBERT ROBERTS (Denbighshire, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been called to the despatch of the Government of Bombay, No. 3109 of 1905, Revenue Department, in which it is stated that in all future licences for the sale of intoxicating drinks a condition would be inserted that liquor should not be sold to persons under fourteen years of age; whether he is aware that this undertaking has not been carried out in all cases; and whether, having regard to the recommendation of the Excise Committee upon this subject, he can give an assurance that this restriction will in future be made effective in regard to all licences.

MR. MORLEY: I have ascertained from the Government of Bombay that the condition has been inserted in all licences renewed since the date of the letter referred to, and will be inserted in others when renewed.

Arab Storekeepers in Natal.

MR. SCOTT (Ashton-under-Lyne): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his attention has been drawn to a published notice of the 12th ultimo to the effect that renewal of trading licences will not be granted to Arab storekeepers after the current year, and that no transfer of such licences will be granted during the same period; whether such Arab storekeepers are really British Indian subjects; and whether, in view of the provisions of the Natal Dealers' Licences Act, the Government will take steps to ensure equal protection of the vested interests of His Majesty's Indian subjects.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): No, Sir, I have not seen such a notice, but will make inquiries on the subject. I would refer the hon. Member to my reply to Questions with regard to the Dealers' Licences Act yesterday.†

Indian Store Keepers in South Africa—The Vrededorp Ordinance.

Mr. SCOTT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the effect of the Vrededorp Stands Ordinance of the Transvaal, recently sanctioned by the Government, will be to dispossess a number of the Indian storekeepers and residents, some being transferees of stands and some tenants of standholders; if so, whether compensation will be paid to such Indians so dispossessed; and whether the European transferees of such stands, who, under the Ordinance, are to be granted leases for years, are in some cases aliens

MR. CHURCHILL: I would refer the hon. Member to the Parliamentary Paper which has just been published, especially to the despatches Nos. 34 and 46. The Secretary of State is already in communication with the Governor with regard to the suggestion that some compensation should be given to the Asiatics. The majority of the Europeans in question appear to be Dutch, but there may be some aliens among them.

Child Labour in the New Hebrides.

MR. HUNT: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies at what ages children of either sex may be indentured under the New Hebrides Convention.

MR. CHURCHILL: Owing to the difficulties of fixing or ascertaining the ages of natives of the New Hebrides, which they themselves usually do not know, an age limit would have been in practice useless. It is therefore provided by the Convention that the limit shall be one of height, to be fixed by the British and French Resident Commissioners; and it will of course be so fixed as to exclude the employment of children of tender years and to ensure that the natives engaged are of a fit age for employment. The point was fully explained by my right hon. friend the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in the course of his speech last Wednesday afternoon.†

---

† See Col. 540.

MR. HUNT: Would a girl aged twelve be considered too young or too old?

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Cannot the hon. gentleman give some indication of what the age will be fixed at?

MR. CHURCHILL: It is a matter which will be decided by the British and French Commissioners.

Administration of the New Hebrides.

*MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, having regard to the Colonial and Imperial interests involved in the administration of the New Hebrides, His Majesty's Government will take counsel with the Australian Governments with a view to severing the administrative control from the High Commissionership of the Western Pacific and the Governorship of Fiji and the appointment of a separate High Commissioner stationed in the New Hebrides themselves.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is proposed to discuss the whole question of the High Commissionership for the Western Pacific, and the arrangements for the discharge of the duties now attached to that office, with the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand while they are in this country for the Colonial Conference.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Will the question of native protection and the power of the Commissioners to act be discussed at the same time?

MR. CHURCHILL asked for notice of the Question.

Australian Tariffs and the New Hebrides.

*MR. WHITEHEAD: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the protective tariff in force in the Australian Commonwealth applies to maize, copra, and other products of the New Hebrides, and has been a cause in limiting the number of British settlers and retarding the development of British interests in those islands; and whether, in the event of further representations being made by the Australian Government with a view to Australian predominance in the New Hebrides, His Majesty's Government will endeavour to persuade the Australian Government to encourage British settlement by offering a free market in the Commonwealth to British merchandise exported from the islands.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am aware of the facts stated in the first part of the hon. Member's Question. The Australian Government propose to submit to the Commonwealth Parliament at an early date proposals in connection with tariff revision which will, I gather, be designed to minimise as far as possible the disability under which British settlers in the New Hebrides are now labouring.

Opium Cure.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he has yet received any intimation relative to the anti-opium movement in Singapore and the Malay States; and whether, in accordance with his promise of the 10th December last,‡ he can furnish any further information with regard to the alleged cure for opium.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State has at present no further information on the subject; he has not yet received the Report as to the alleged cure for the opium habit, for which he has called.

Baghdad Railway.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can make any statement to the House regarding the internationalisation of the Baghdad Railway or the participation of Great Britain in the further progress of the line, more particularly of the Gulf section.

---

† See Col. 181.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxvi., 1550.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): The Answer is in the negative. I have no statement to make.

*MR. REES: Has the question of the 3 per cent. increase been settled?

SIR EDWARD GREY: The 3 per cent. increase has not yet been agreed to. The negotiations are in an advanced stage.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether His Majesty's Government have recently entered into negotiations with any foreign Government with a view to the construction of the Baghdad Railway; and whether any Papers on the subject can be laid upon the Table.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The answer to both Questions is in the negative.

Belgium and the Congo State.

MR. BENNETT (Oxfordshire, Woodstock): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he can give some assurance to this House that no annexation of the Congo State by Belgium will be accepted by His Majesty's Government, unless such annexation is strictly in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Berlin Treaty.

SIR EDWARD GREY: In the opinion of His Majesty's Government the area comprised in the Congo Free State is bound by the terms of the Berlin Act, which cannot be varied except by the common consent of the Signatory Powers. This clearly applies to any transfer of the State from one Government to another.

New Hebrides—Female Labour.

*MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in the suggested negotiations with the Government of France relative to the New Hebrides, he will urge the importance of forbidding entirely the engagement of unmarried women, even with the consent of the head of their tribe, having regard to the moral evils and cruelty which have already arisen from this kind of engagement, and the gradual depopulation of the islands being caused thereby.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The regulations laid down in the Convention regarding the employment of women, combined with the provisions for the government of the islands, constitute a distinct advance upon those hitherto applied, and are intended to prevent the evils referred to, if they have hitherto occurred. If, when the new system comes into operation, it is found desirable to make the regulations more stringent, the two Governments will no doubt co-operate for that purpose. And the British Commissioner in the islands will be instructed to report upon the working of the regulations, and to keep this point, as well as others, in mind.

Persian Parliament and Foreign Enterprises.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he has received any information showing that differences have arisen between the new Persian Parliament and the Shah or his Ministers; and, if so, whether that information establishes a probability that the Parliament will interfere with the enterprises of British or other Foreign subjects in the Persian dominions.

SIR EDWARD GREY: We do not anticipate interference with the enterprises of British or Foreign subjects. The rest of the Question has been answered in the reply to the hon. Member for the Ripon Division of Yorkshire given yesterday.†

Mine Inspectorship.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if the examinations for mines inspectorships are competitive, and all candidates having colliery managers' certificates, under the Coal Mines Act, are allowed to sit regardless of position in life; and, if so, whether he will consider the advisability of having a coal-mining man as examiner instead of a metal-mining man, in view of the fact that the coal miners far exceed the metal miners.

---

† See Col. 545.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): Examinations for the post of Inspector of Mines are in the regular course competitive. Candidates are selected and are nominated by the Secretary of State after careful consideration has been given to their professional qualifications, one of which is the possession of a manager's certificate. Their position in life, apart from professional qualifications, is not taken into account. As regards the last part of the Question I can only say that the arrangements for this, as for other Civil Service examinations, are entirely in the hands of the Civil Service Commissioners.

MR. SUMMERBELL: Would it not be advisable that all candidates should enter by competition rather than by selection?

MR. GLADSTONE'S reply was understood to be that that would give rise to many disadvantages.

Workmen's Compensation — Government Medical Referees.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he is aware that Dr. Fee Todd, Government Medical Referee under the Compensation Act, in a recent case acted as the employer's doctor, and also as agent for an insurance company, informing the applicant that he was quite well and offering him eight weeks compensation and a light job as a final settlement; and, if so, whether he will take steps, by legislation or otherwise, to prevent a medical referee from acting as indicated.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The conditions on which Medical Referees are appointed preclude them from holding any professional appointments which would involve either attendance on, or examination of, injured workmen, and Dr. Todd informs me that he holds no agency for any insurance company nor is he under any contracts to examine workmen coming under the Act. He states however, that from time to time he is called upon to treat or to examine such cases in the ordinary course of his practice; and while Medical Referees are instructed to avoid, as far as possible, cases which may afterwards come before them in their capacity of Referee, no absolute rule has been laid down that they are to decline all such cases. Of course where a Medical Referee has attended an injured workman, he is precluded, by Section 10 of the Act of last session, from acting subsequently in that case in his official capacity. Dr. Todd does not say in his reply whether or not he made an offer on behalf of the insurance company as alleged in the Question, but I have communicated with him further in the matter. Any such offer on the part of a referee would, I think, be quite inconsistent with his official position.

Child Labour in Factories.

MR. CLYNES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in respect to the certifying surgeons who examine children to ascertain their physical fitness to commence work in factories and workshops, whether he can state the proportion of children rejected as unfit for employment, and name the reasons for rejection which the surgeons are required to give in rejected cases.

*MR. GLADSTONE: The hon. Member will find all the available information on this subject for the year 1905 on page 433 of the last Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories. I should add that in reporting the causes of rejection which appear in the foot-note the certifying surgeons do not distinguish between children and young persons under sixteen. Corresponding details for 1906 will be given in the next Report, but they have not yet been tabulated.

Standing Joint Committees' Expenditure.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board when he expects to be able to introduce a Bill providing for the control by county councils of the expenditure of standing joint committees.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I do not think that I can make any promise as to the introduction of a Bill on this subject at the present time.

Shoes for Destitute Children—City Union Case.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been called to case of a destitute child, named Michael Hayes, who was, on or about the 1st January, 1907, broughtbefore the magistrate at the Guildhall, without shoes and stockings, from the City Union; whether he is aware that the officers of the guardians of that union had refused to provide him with shoes and stockings, although the weather was then very inclement; and whether, in view of the duty of the guardians to provide the child with shoes and stockings as necessary relief within the meaning of The Poor Relief Act, 1601, and of the fact that the City Guardians spend more money per head of population than any other board of guardians in the Kingdom, he proposes to take any, and, if any, what action in the matter.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I made inquiry with respect to this case. I am informed that the guardians deemed it necessary to discontinue the supply of clothing to charged children brought to the workhouse by the police because they found that many parents purposely sent their children into the City in the hope that clothing and boots would be given them, and that eventually the articles were disposed of by the parents and the child again sent into the city to beg, dressed in the old ragged garments. I understand, however, that the guardians are in communication with the Court of Aldermen with a view to the discontinuance of the practice of sending charged children to the workhouse referred to, and to other arrangements being made with regard to them.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): Would it not be possible to put some mark on the boots and clothes which would prevent parents from disposing of them improperly?

MR. JOHN BURNS: That has been tried, but the ingenuity of fraudulent parents circumvented it.

*MR. LEIF JONES: It is done in Lancashire.

Deaths from Starvation in East London.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, in what number of cases did a coroner's jury return a verdict of death from starvation or death accelerated by privation in the year 1906 in London, the eastern district of London, and the union of Whitechapel respectively; in what union in London did the greatest number of deaths so declared by verdict take place in 1906; and what was the number of such deaths in Whitechapel Union during the whole period from 1870 to the end of 1906.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am unable to give any figures on this subject relating to the year 1906. The usual Annual Return has not at present been ordered for that year, and I understand that the particulars which would be required for filling it up have not yet been obtained by the Home Office. As regards the last part of the Question, I stated on the 12th November last that the number of deaths in Whitechapel from starvation or privation since 1891 (the year in which the Local Government Board first obtained the observations of the Guardians on the cases included in the Return) was ninety-eight. The number from 1870 to 1890, so far as can be ascertained from the Returns, appears to have been 152, but this number must be taken as only approximately correct, as the earlier Returns do not always show the name or address of the deceased, or the union concerned.

Durham and Northumberland Mail Cart Drivers.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that some of the rural mail cart drivers in Durham and Northumberland have to be up at 4 a.m., attend to and harness their horses in time to get the early morning mails from the railway station, and, while these are being sorted at the post office, they then get their mail carts ready and start on their rounds, getting back to the head office between 7 and 8 p.m.; that they then wait for the making up of the night mails, which they drive to the station, and, by the time they have done this and put their horses up for the night, they have been on duty for about seventeen hours; will he say whether this is a daily record, summer and winter; and whether, seeing that the wages for such work are 18s. per week, or under 2d. per hour, he can see his way to an improvement in the conditions of such men.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): If the hon. Member will furnish me particulars of the cases he has in mind, I will make inquiry respecting them.

Scottish Post Offices and Christmas Holidays.

MR. MENZIES (Lanarkshire, S.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether all post offices in England are closed from 12 (noon) on Christmas Day; and, if so, whether a similar half-holiday could be arranged for Post Office employees in Scotland, either on Christmas or New Year's Day.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: On Christmas Day, in England and Ireland, post offices are open during the same hours as on Sundays. In Scotland on Christmas Day and also on New Year's Day, post offices are open as on ordinary week days, although on the last-named day money order, postal order and savings bank business is not transacted. The question of making the arrangements on New Year's Day in Scotland the same as those on Christmas Day in England and Ireland has been considered, but it is doubtful whether such a restriction of services on New Year's Day would be generally acceptable to the Scottish people.

Navy League Maps for Elementary Schools.

*CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether, seeing that the total cost of education is upwards of £20,000,000 yearly, and the total cost of elementary plus secondary and technical is £28,000,000, he can see his way to providing our schools with Navy League maps, which show at a glance all the British dependencies.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. LOUGH, Islington, W.): I cannot admit the accuracy of the hon. Member's figures, and I do not draw his conclusions, but in any case the provision of maps or other equipment does not come within the province of the Board of Education, but of the local education authority.

CAPTAIN FABER: How much would it cost to supply these maps?

MR. LOUGH: I cannot say.

Teachers' Superannuation.

MR. LANE-FOX (Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether the Teachers' Superannuation Fund is entirely raised by deductions from the salaries of teachers; what has been the increase in the fund during the past year; what is the total amount of the fund at present; and whether, in view of its rapid growth, more generous terms of superannuation can be offered to the teachers, either by reducing the limit of age or by increasing the superannuation allowance given.

MR. LOUGH: The pensions payable under the Teachers' Superannuation Act are derived from two distinct sources—(1) the deferred annuity fund and (2) moneys supplied by the Treasury. I presume the hon. Member's Question refers to the deferred annuity fund, which is formed entirely of the contributions of the teachers themselves. The assets of the fund on 31st March, 1906, amounted to £1,083,159, representing an increase of £234,299 in the preceding twelve months. The Act provides that an actuarial inquiry into the assets and liabilities of the fund shall be held at the end of every seven years, the report of which shall be presented to Parliament. The first of such inquiries is now in progress, and, if it appears from the actuary's report that the state of the fund requires a reduction or justifies an increase in the annuities, the Treasury may cause fresh annuity tables to be prepared.

South Kensington Technological Institute.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS (London University): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state what progress has been made in the negotiations for the establishment of the proposed new Technological Institute at South Kensington; and whether the Board are prepared to accept the proposals of the Senate of the University of London approved at their meeting of 12th December, 1906, and forwarded to the Board of Education on 13th December, in reply to the letter of Mr. Morant of 30th November, 1906, stating that the President of the Board of Education thought that it would be almost imperative that decisive steps should have been taken by the end of the year which would make possible the establishment of the new institution early in next year (1907).

MR. LOUGH: The recent change of Presidents of the Board of Education has necessitated a slight delay in this important matter. I am desired by the new President to say that he cordially endorses the statement in the letter of 30th November, as to the imperative necessity of a prompt decision, and has made the consideration of this problem one of the very first matters of investigation on taking office. It is not expedient to make any announcement to-day.

SIR PHILIP MAGNUS: Can the hon. Gentleman say when the announcement is likely to be made?

MR. LOUGH: I cannot add anything to my Answer.

Glasgow Prison Surgeonship.

*MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware that the candidate recommended for the assistant surgeonship at Duke Street Prison, Glasgow, by the Prison Commissioners as far back as August of last year has not yet been appointed; if he will explain the cause of this delay; and if he will say when the appointment will be made.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): In reply to the first part of the Question, I would refer my hon. friend to my Answer of 17th December last.† Dr. Joseph Green was appointed assistant surgeon at the prison referred to on 6th February.

*MR. WATT: Might I ask if this gentleman appointed was the same who was recommended by the Prison Commissioners in August?

MR. SINCLAIR: This is the candidate whom the Prison Commissioners now recommend.

Traction Engine Traffic Regulations in Scotland.

SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he is aware of the vexation and expense caused to many tradesmen in Scotland by the requirement of a third man with a travelling traction engine; and whether, as the similar requirement in England was abolished by law more than seven years ago, he can see his way to introduce a measure to abolish it in Scotland, and put an end to prosecutions in the criminal courts.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am familiar with the point raised by my hon. friend and shall be glad to consider it.

Scottish Asylum Officials' Superannuation.

SIR J. JARDINE: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he can see his way to introduce a measure at an early date to put the officers of the Melrose Asylum and other district asylums in Scotland in as advantageous a position with regard to superannuation allowances as similar officers in England, Wales, and Ireland.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am unable to give the hon. Member any assurance as to legislation on this subject during the present session.

Mr. J. L. Beers' Corkey Estate.

MR. C. MACVEIGH (Donegal, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the cause of the delay on the part of the Estates Commissioners in sending an inspector to inspect and report on the sale of the estate of Mr. John Leslie Beers at Corkey, county Donegal, the agreements for purchase of which were entered into between the landlord and tenants in February, 1905; and if he can state when the sale to the tenants is likely to be completed.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1045.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The Estates Commissioners inform me that an inspection of this estate will not be necessary, seeing that the purchase money of the two holdings which comprise it falls within the zones. The Commissioners have directed a survey of the boundaries, and are dealing with the case in order of priority, but cannot state precisely when the sale will be completed.

Cost of Teaching Irish in Irish Schools.

MR. J. F. MASON (Windsor): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Treasury has consented to increase the grant in connection with the payment of extra fees for the teaching of Irish in the schools of Ireland.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury): It has not been found possible to make provision for expenditure on the teaching of Irish beyond that involved by the scheme sanctioned last year.

Royal Hibernian Academy.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether his attention has been called to the resolution unanimously adopted by the committee of the Art Union of Ireland on 8th January, emphatically protesting against the Report and recommendations of the majority of the Committee of Inquiry into the Royal Hibernian Academy and the Metropolitan School of Art, and stating that the Minority Report commends itself to all those interested in the cause of art in Ireland and in the encouragement of the schools; and whether, in view of the fact that the public opinion of Ireland has declared itself against the destruction of the Academy, can he say what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I fear I cannot add anything at present to the Answer given by my predecessor to the hon. Member's Question on the 20th December last.†

Irish Land Purchase.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he will consider the advisability of amending the Land Purchase (Ireland) Act by authorising the Treasury to issue scrip bearing interest at 3 per cent., and redeemable at par, during a term of years at the option of the Treasury, in lieu of cash, as may seem desirable.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): It was a cardinal principle of the Land Act of 1903 that future advances for land purchase should be made in cash, not in securities. It was the purpose of the Act to provide such facilities and inducements as would stimulate purchase transactions, which were flagging under the earlier Acts. The undertaking to provide the advance in cash was one of these inducements. How effective they have been may be judged by the rapid growth in the applications for advances after the passing of the Act, also by the fact that in the first three years of the operation of the Act over 21,000,000 of Guaranteed Two-and-Three-Quarters per Cent. stock were issued, as compared with an issue of about 13,500,000 of the old Guaranteed Land stock in twelve years from 1891 to 1903. I do not suppose that my hon. friend wishes to urge upon the Government a measure for retarding the progress which was welcomed by all parties in 1903. It is clear that such must be the effect of making the advances in securities instead of cash, unless landowners are prepared to accept a 3 per cent. security as the equivalent of the same amount in cash. I am not aware of any evidence to show that there is a disposition to accept such terms. Another obstacle to the acceptance of the hon. Member's proposal would be that the tenant's purchase annuity, which is fixed at 3¼ per cent. on the amount of the advance, would take some twenty years longer to redeem the loan if the rate of interest were increased from 2¾ to 3 per cent.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvii., 1733.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.) asked whether further advances were to be made for the purposes of the Act in the present year.

MR. ASQUITH: If the hon. Member refers to a fresh issue of stock, I cannot say. The funds produced by the last issue are by no means exhausted yet.

India and the Colonial Conference.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Prime Minister what arrangements are in contemplation for the representation of India at the forthcoming Colonial Conference; and whether, in addition to an official, it is proposed to invite an Indian representative to attend.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg also to ask the First Lord of the Treasury what will be the nature of the representation of India in the Imperial Conference to which the Ministers of the Commonwealth, Dominion, and self-governing Colonies have been invited, as announced by him on 21st May last.

MR. ASQUITH: As the Prime Minister stated in reply to a similar Question on 29th May† last the practice adopted at the previous Conferences provides for the presence of representatives of different Departments of the Government, and, under this arrangement, the Secretary of State for India will nominate a representative from the Council of India who will attend the Conference. It is also the intention of the Secretary of State himself to attend, should he see occasion to do so. The Question of the representation of India at future Conferences will no doubt enter into the discussion of the future Constitution of the Conference itself.

SIR H. COTTON: Will there be no native official for India there?

[No Answer was audible.]

Board of Agriculture Offices.

MR. LANE-FOX: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether the housing accommodation of the Board of Agriculture is adequate to the requirements of a great department; and whether he will consider the possibility of providing better accommodation, either by utilising the building recently vacated by the War Office or in some other manner.

MR. ASQUITH (for Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN): The Question is under the consideration of the First Commissioner of Works and will be dealt with, it is hoped, in connection with the re-appropriation of official accommodation after the removal of certain other Departments to the new offices in Parliament Street.

NEW BILLS.

TRAWLER'S CERTIFICATES SUSPENSION BILL.

"To enable courts to suspend the Certificates of Trawlers convicted of illegal trawling," presented by Mr. Weir; supported by Mr. Morton, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bryce, Mr. Sutherland, Mr. Younger, and Major Anstruther-Gray; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 50.]

CROFTERS' HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts," presented by Mr. Weir; supported by Mr. Morton, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Bryce, and Mr. Williamson; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 51.]

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTORATE (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To admit to the School Board Electorate of Scotland persons entitled to vote for the county council election," presented by Mr. Weir; supported by Mr. Morton, Mr. John Dewar, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. Dalziel, and Mr. Leicester Harmsworth; to be read a second time upon Friday, 5th April, and to be printed. [Bill 52.]

PHARMACY BILL.

"To provide for the further regulation of the sale of poisons and the compounding of medical prescriptions, and to amend the Pharmacy Acts, 1852 and 1868," presented by Mr. Winfrey; supported by Mr. Idris, Mr. Frederick Edwin Smith, Mr. Henniker Heaton, Mr. Gibb, Mr. Remnant, Mr. Ellis Griffith, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Cowan, Mr. Gulland, and Mr. O'Malley; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 6th March, and to be printed. [Bill 53.]

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 297.

INFANT LIFE PROTECTION BILL.

"To amend the Infant Life Protection Act, 1897," presented by Mr. Staveley-Hill; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Hay, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Ramsay Macdonald, Mr. Hills, and Mr. Nicholls; to be read a second time upon Monday, 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 54.]

SETTLEMENT OF PAUPERS BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Settlement of Paupers," presented by Mr. Staveley-Hill; supported by Mr. Stuart Wortley, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. Coates, Mr. M'Laren, Mr. Warner, and Mr. Corrie Grant; to be read a second time upon Monday, 15th April, and to be printed. [Bill 55.]

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Question [12th February], "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth":—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign,*

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)

Question again proposed.

*MR. HILLS (Durham) rose to move the addition of the following words—"But this House humbly expresses regret that no reference is made in Your Majesty's Speech to the approaching Colonial Conference, and to the opportunity thereby offered for promoting freer trade within the Empire and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis." He said that the Amendment did not require a lengthy introduction, because in six weeks time the Colonial Conference would be held in London, and before that assembly would be laid matters of great importance. It seemed to him that the present time was opportune to ascertain the opinions of the Government on the questions which were to come before that Conference. The occasion was opportune, and the matter was important. The occasion was opportune because the object of the Amendment was to secure freer trade in the Empire and commercial union on a preferential basis. The matter was important because we now stood at the parting of the ways. We had to come to a decision of great importance, and any mistake might have disastrous consequences. He would like, in a few words, to explain the exact position of the question as it stood now, and follow the steps whereby that position had been reached. Shortly after having been given representative government, all the Colonies, with hardly an exception, adopted protective tariffs. This step was taken, in the first place, with a view to increased revenue, and secondly, and perhaps this was the more important point, for the protection of their home development. After the adoption of these tariffs a movement grew up in the Colonies for closer union between themselves and the Mother Country. The first step taken towards that end was at the Conference of 1887, which was summoned to discuss certain questions in council. It was important to notice that the question of preferential trade did not form one of those questions. The subjects detailed for discussion were those of postal and telegraph facilities and questions of defence. But before the Conference met, three, at least, of the Premiers who were going to attend expressed their intention of raising the question of preferential trade. At the Conference it was raised by Sir Samuel Griffith, Premier of Queensland, who moved a Resolution as follows—

> "It should be recognised that goods coming from British possessions should be subject to a lighter duty than those coming from foreign possessions."

Discussion ensued, but there was no opposition. The Colonial Premiers went home with the matter in their minds and set to work to see how they could bring about such a preference. As soon, however, as they attempted to put it into practice they found that the German and Belgian Treaties of 1862 and 1865 were obstacles in their way, and a movement, in which Canada took its lead, was started for their repeal. The next step taken was at the Ottawa Conference seven years later. There all the Colonial Premiers assembled and reiterated their demand for preference, and called for a denunciation of the treaties. Accordingly a year later Lord Salisbury's Government denounced them. Immediately Canada, the Cape, and New Zealand, all granted preference to British goods. Under that preference we had a preferred position in the Colonial markets. He (the speaker) was running shortly through the history of the matter, but he wished to stop and make one point clear. He wished to impress upon the House that this preference arose out of the domestic needs of the Colonies themselves. This was a fact of extreme importance and the key to the whole position. Unless it was understood he did not think that they could take a true view of the Colonial question. The demand for preference in the first instance arose as a national demand from the Colonies for their own national needs. Then they came to the second London Conference in 1897. At that Conference the subject was very fully discussed, and certain Resolutions passed which were of very great importance as applied to the present situation. A series of five rather lengthy Resolutions were passed, but he would not trouble the House by reading them all. The first recognised that the principle of preferential trade between the United Kingdom and the Colonies would stimulate and facilitate mutual commercial intercourse. That was exactly his Amendment. It aimed at stimulating and facilitating commercial intercourse between the Colonies and the Mother Country. The second Resolution—

> "Recognises that in the present circumstances of its Colonies it is not practicable to adopt a general system of free trade as between the Mother Country and the British dominions beyond the seas."

That was a conclusion which he wished to impress upon the House. The Colonies, without exception, recognised that in their present condition of development, and the development of the Mother Country, complete free trade was quite impracticable. They could not have free trade, but he hoped they could have freer trade. The third Resolution stated—

> "That it is desirable that those Colonies which have not already adopted such a policy should, so far as their circumstances permit, give a substantial preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the United Kingdom."

The fourth Resolution—

> "Respectfully urges upon Her Majesty's Government the expediency of granting in the United Kingdom preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the Colonies, either by exemption from, or reduction of, duties now or hereafter imposed."

He hoped he had made the position plain. All the Colonies expressed their wish and intention of granting preferential treatment to the products and manufactures of the United Kingdom, and also asked Her Majesty's Government to consider the possibility of giving the Colonies preference either by reduction of, or exemption from, their duties. On the strength of this, Canada gave us a preferential rebate of one-third of the duties, South Africa made a rebate of 25 per cent. and New Zealand a rebate of 10 per cent. But, as the House knew, we did not make any corresponding offer, and failed to see our way to grant any reduction or remission of the duties then imposed. The effect of that had been that whilst we had stood still the Colonies had moved; and now the Empire was knit together with a network of commercial treaties, while the United Kingdom stood outside that arrangement. Canada had made a treaty with Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa; Australia and New Zealand with South Africa, and Canada with the West Indies. All these countries gave certain concessions and received certain advantages in return. At present we had done nothing, and when His Majesty's Government came to meet the Council of the Empire in April next they would meet a commercially federated Empire of which we did not form part. In all he said he wished it to be distinctly understood that he treated the matter in an uncontroversial spirit. He wished to see where the Government stood. They all welcomed the speech made by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies at

Leeds a fortnight ago. The hon. Gentleman then said—

> "Another matter which might be helped forward was the system of Inter-colonial preferences, which was becoming quite an extensive system, and was making an approach to that Imperial free trade which was the goal of the tariff reformer and the free trader."

Yet in his speech the previous week the same hon. Gentleman had told them that he objected to a preference between the United Kingdom and its Colonies. Why was a preference between the Colonies themselves a good thing and a preference between the Colonies and the United Kingdom a bad thing? The answer was obvious. Because the Colonies were tariff States, and therefore preference meant lower duties and freer trade; while the United Kingdom was a non-tariff State, and therefore preference meant the imposition of duties and restricted trade. The objection of the Government was not to preference itself, but to its extension to a non-tariff State like England But was England a non-tariff State? No. We were the highest tariff State in the world. The amount paid per head of the populations in Customs duties was higher in the United Kingdom than in any other country. It was 12s. 2d. per head in England; 11s. 8d. in the United States and 8s. 2d. in Germany. Articles of universal consumption were taxed in the United Kingdom—*e.g.*, tea, sugar, wine, tobacco, cocoa, dried fruits, and coffee. All these were articles that every household must have. [Cries of "Wine"?] Well, he would except wine. Tea and sugar, however, were necessities in the poorest households. Tea was taxed at 100 per cent. and sugar at 25 per cent. Then, again, what were the luxuries of the household? Tobacco was a luxury, indeed almost a necessity, and that was taxed at more than 100 per cent. All these taxes pressed on the people least able to bear the burden. Without going into the thorny subject of the incidence of import duties, he wished to say that when we taxed an article which we did not produce, the whole or nearly the whole of the tax must fall on the consumer, whilst on the other hand all economists admitted that a part, at any rate, of taxes on articles that we produced might be paid by the foreigner. Therefore our Customs were so arranged that they fell mainly on ourselves, and all the taxes he had mentioned were put on the poorest classes of the people. If we looked at the question of preference in the same view as that taken by the Colonies, and approached it from the standpoint of our own domestic needs, quite apart from the question of Empire and larger issues, there was an overwhelming case for a reduction in taxation. But, if we reduced our duties, why should we reduce for nothing? If we reduced our duties to the whole world, we should receive nothing in exchange. If, however, we reduced our duties in favour of our Colonies we should derive very great advantages in return. We were faced with an overwhelming case for the reduction of duties with our Colonies. How did our Customs duties affect the different Colonies and Dependencies? There were the tea duty, the tobacco duty, the sugar, wine, coffee, and dried fruits duties, all of which were too high, and ought to be, and could be, reduced consistently with free trade and the Government's pledges. Let them take a short survey and see how far we could meet the Colonies in the matter without going outside our present fiscal system. Australia sent us a quantity of wine and if she had a preferential market she would send us a great deal more. Queensland grew sugar, and if she had our market she would certainly grow a great deal more. She was also starting to grow coffee, and there again, if she had a preferential market, she would increase this industry. Then with regard to dried fruits, if a partial remission of the duty were made in favour of Australia she would also increase her dried fruit trade. Then, turning to Africa, there was Cape wine, once famous, still excellent, Transvaal tobacco and Natal cigars. As regarded tobacco, he could not see why we should not give a preference to our own possessions. Rhodesia grew tobacco, Central Africa even now exported coffee, and both Rhodesia and parts of the Northern Transvaal were well suited for fruit farms, and could, if developed, do a large trade in that kind of produce. The West Indies he would refer to quite briefly, as sugar and spirits were the principal exports. Then there was India, from which a large proportion—eight-ninths—of our tea came, and we might easily give a preference to her in regard to that article. The fruit-growing industry meant a large resident white population, and in Okanagon, the great fruit-growing region of Western Canada, five acres of land would support a man. If we started fruit-growing in South Africa, we might transfer the country from a gold basis to a basis of profitable production. A small remission of duty would develop the tobacco trade of Rhodesia, and even Ireland might have a preference upon tobacco. If they looked round the Empire it could be seen how within the limits of our present scale of duties and with advantage to ourselves we could advance to a large measure of preference. But there were two difficulties he wished to meet. The first concerned the Chancellor of the Exchequer. We should lose nearly the whole tea duty and part of the sugar, tobacco, and wine duties. He thought, however, on the other hand, we could reckon on increased consumption, which would counterbalance the somewhat lower rate of duty. He should not propose to remit these colonial taxes altogether, but only to reduce them, and undoubtedly the cheaper introduction of these articles would increase the consumption and that would increase the revenue. He quite agreed, however, that that would not meet the whole point, because the case for preference, upon a revenue basis, was not confined to meeting existing demands, but they had to look to the future and to see if they could find the money for those large schemes which were bound to come up and the progress of which was blocked for want of money. As far as he had gone at present he had, he thought, shown the Government the way in which they could, consistently with their own convictions, grant a preference within the Empire. He did not upon the whole think that the Revenue loss would be very great, but if he was asked how he would meet the revenue difficulty himself he was prepared with his answer. He should set up a general tariff. That question was, however, really outside the present Amendment and was not involved in the question of preference, for very large concessions as to preference could be granted without it. The second difficulty was that we had not yet considered the case of Canada. This country being situated in the temperate region, and our fiscal system not allowing us to tax articles we produced, our customs were mainly levied on products from the tropics. Therefore, the question arose how on the interchange of goods we could give a preference to Canada, which produced no tropical or sub-tropical articles. He supposed that the question of food taxation was entirely a question of cost, and that the most stalwart free trader would not object to a tax on food unless the effect of that tax was to raise the cost of food. He understood, however, that the argument, which he did not wish to misrepresent, was that if we taxed part of the countries supplying us with food, those countries would raise their price by the amount of the tax, while those who were untaxed would be also anxious to get the best price and would raise their price up to the level of that of the taxed products, so that in the result the price of the whole supply would be raised, taxed and untaxed. So that if we only taxed foreign wheat the effect of that tax would be to raise the price of Canadian and Colonial wheat even if it came in free. It seemed to him that that contention depended upon the dogma that import duties always raised prices. Did they? Supposing we taxed coal anything we liked—say 1s. an ounce—did anybody contend that the price of coal would be raised? Of course it would not, because our supply of coal was abundant and our imports insignificant. Moreover, the Americans had a tax of 8s. a quarter upon wheat, still grain was cheaper in New York than it was here. The question of whether a tax would raise the cost entirely depended upon the relative strength of the taxed and the untaxed supply. That import duties did not necessarily raise prices was shown by the 1s. duty which was imposed in 1902 upon corn. He quite agreed that in certain cases the bakers did raise their prices, but the effect over the whole country was that the price of bread was higher when the tax was taken off than while the tax was on. This was, of course, a very intricate subject, but he believed that the better opinion was that that tax was paid out of the cost of transportation paid to railways and steamship companies who quoted slightly lower rates when the 1s. tax was being paid. Broadly speaking, it was a question of supply and demand; it was a question of how large the untaxed supplies were; how large the taxed supply was; and how far we were dependent upon the taxed supply. The last figures which he had been able to get showed that rather more than half of our supply of wheat was grown at home or in the Empire, and if they took into account the possibilities of production in the Empire they were driven to the conclusion that we could get from it far more grain than we wanted and far more than the whole world would want. He had recently read the Report of the United States Commissioner who visited Canada four years ago, who said that the wheat land in the district tributary to Winnipeg alone would produce more than the entire world's consumption for year. Less than 2 per cent. of this one available wheat land—250,000,000 acres—was now under cultivation. He was told also by the High Commissioner for Canada that wheat production in Western Canada last year was 90,250,000 bushels, and rather more than half of that was available for export. Leaving aside the actual production and looking to the future he would like to quote Professor Mavor's Report, who was sent out by our Board of Trade, and he estimated that, taking the lowest figure in that Report, and even making a deduction from that, Canada, plus the production of India and our home production, would give us all the wheat we wanted. We sometimes spoke as if Canada was the sole wheat-supplying country in the Empire; but that was not so, as we got from Australia nearly two and a half times the amount we received from Canada. The possibilities of wheat-growing in the Empire were enormous, and Australia in good seasons could grow wheat as cheaply as it could be grown anywhere. As to India, her supply could be largely increased. It was only a question of irrigation, for which we, under a preferential system, should build the machinery The possibilities of the Empire were so enormous that we could find not only all the food we wanted within it, but more than we required. He had put his case as moderately as possible. He had avoided the larger and more important side of the question, that of Imperial union, which he did not think was raised by the Amendment, but he had shown the necessity of commercial union. That was the great question that faced us, and he regarded commercial union as a step in the direction of Imperial union. He wished to add a word of caution. He expressed no opinion whether free trade was possible or desirable throughout the Empire. All he said was that it was impracticable at the present time, for until we had countries on an industrial equality it was difficult to start a system of free trade within the Empire with any fairness. He wished to combat the idea sometimes stated that we desired to make a dumping ground of the Colonies for our surplus manufactures, or that we were asking the people of this country to sacrifice themselves for the benefit of the Colonies. The demand for preference in the Colonies arose entirely from their domestic needs, and if it were to be a real demand it must in this country also be based on our own domestic needs. He begged to move.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor), in seconding the Amendment, said he would endeavour to state his case as moderately as possible. He would like as a preliminary to say that he was in theory a free trader. He believed where free trade was possible all round it was the best possible solution. But his being a free trader in theory was not inconsistent with his being a tariff reformer in practice, nor was it inconsistent with regretting, as the Amendment did, that no reference was made in the Speech from the Throne to the approaching Colonial Conference. The right hon. Gentleman the Prime Minister had said that no reference to Colonial Conferences had been made in previous Speeches from the Throne; but that was not a good precedent, because in 1897 the whole idea of a Colonial Conference only sprang up during the Diamond Jubilee, long after Parliament had met, and in 1902 nothing was decided until a week after the meeting of Parliament. The idea of Colonial Conferences had increased immeasurably in importance since it was first started, and some reference should have been made in the Royal Speech to the coming Conference. He had no desire to dogmatise in this particular matter on any particular proposal. He would rather not commit himself to any absolute figures. What he asked the House to do and what the Amendment asked the House to do was to accept the general principle that closer commercial union with the Colonies on a preferential basis was desirable. He did not quite agree with his hon. friend that the question of Imperial unity did not arise. In his opinion there were two keys to political federation and national life, one was —if he might be permitted to use German words which most accurately expressed the ideas—Kriegsverein, a union for war, and the other was Zollverein, a union for customs. At the present moment the increase of communication all over the world would naturally assist a union throughout the Empire for war; but as regarded the question of a union for customs, history showed more and more the immense advantage of bringing the different parts of the Empire together. That was seen by the commercial union of Germany, to which that far-seeing statesman, Prince Bismarck, attached so much importance, and that of the United States, which had done so much to contribute to the prosperity of those countries.

AN HON. MEMBER: That is free trade.

*MR. EVELYN CECIL: Quite so. What this Amendment aimed at was freer trade within the Empire. If it was possible to obtain free trade within the Empire so much the better, but if it was not possible then let us get as near to it as we could. He submitted that closer connection with the Colonies by means of preference was as near as we could get for many years. Another reason for this closer connection was the question of the supply of food in time of war. If such a connection were entered into, our food supply would be less dislocated if at any time we were unfortunately at war with another nation. If the principle of this Amendment was agreed to it would also incontestably broaden the basis of taxation. That the basis of taxation required to be broadened was admitted, and he asked the House to adopt this Amendment, if they preferred it, simply for the purposes of revenue. He was perfectly willing to advocate the change on that ground, and it would be better for the poorer classes. At present our taxation was largely on articles of universal consumption, and if the basis was broadened as desired by this Resolution more articles, not of such universal consumption, would be taxed, and in that way the taxation would be apportioned much more fairly between the rich and the poor. He had never been able to understand precisely, since we could not get free trade all round, what was the justification for the argument that no foreign article ought to be taxed unless the home producer of the same kind of article was equally taxed. Foreign nations attacked us by their tariffs, and we had no power to revenge ourselves on them by our tariffs. And in the case where we taxed foreign articles not also produced at home, the foreigner could command the price and make us pay in it the amount of any tax that we put on. With regard to the views of the Colonies referred to in the latter part of the Amendment, his hon. friend had pointed to the historical Resolution passed by the Colonies at the Conference of 1902, and since then Sir Wilfred Laurier had constantly invited us in speeches he had made in more recent years further to consider the question. The Colonies were beginning to create preferential treaties among themselves. Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa had done so, and were finding the great advantage to be derived from them. Canada took a large proportion of the sugar of our West Indian Colonies in preference to the beet sugar of Germany, mainly in consequence of the surtax placed on German goods by Canada after the tariff trouble in 1897. New Zealand had given preference to Ceylon tea over China tea, and the result was that New Zealand got tea cheaper from Ceylon, and at the same time she had encouraged a large increase in the production of tea in Ceylon.

This was a direct advantage from preferential treatment which those Colonies acquired for each other. In face of the general increase of trade between the Mother Country and Canada since the granting of the preference by Canada in 1897, could it be denied that such an arrangement would be mutually advantageous? The figures showed that in years before preference was granted our exports to Canada were persistently diminishing. The moment preference was granted the trade went up by leaps and bounds, and was going up constantly still. He did not mean to say that in quoting the general figures, the whole advantage was to be attributed to preferential trade, but a great part of the figures, he thought, were affected by this cause. In 1892 before preference was granted, British exports to Canada amounted to the value of £6,870,000. They went steadily down to £5,172,000 in 1897. In 1898, the year after preference was granted, they were £5,838,000, and in 1900 £7,605,000. In 1905 they were £11,909,000. In regard to particular industries the trend of the figures was the same. Iron and steel, cotton, flax, wool, silk, textiles, all showed the same tendency. They all went down very considerably between 1892 and 1897, and began to rise after preference was granted in 1898, and were rising up to the present time. Canada, he believed. was one of the great industrial centres of the Empire, and was likely to grow and increase and be one of the greatest forces of the Empire. We could not get on without her; she could not get on without us. Preference was shown by the figures to increase her trade with the Mother Country, and that trade was a bond of Empire. Canada had just introduced a special and new tariff, and the effect of it, broadly speaking, had been pronounced by the Minister for Finance as likely to do us rather more good than the previous one did. But in the long run there were many considerations to be borne in mind. The new Canadian tariff had three scales—the general, the intermediate, and the preferential tariff. The phrase "general tariff" did not mean a general tariff on all goods. The term "general" applied to the countries against which the tariff was imposed. The "general" tariff was applied to all countries, unless by agreement and bargaining the intermediate tariff was fixed upon between Canada and any one of those countries. In bargaining, Canada might, in consideration of part of the duty being taken off certain Canadian goods landed in a given country, take off a certain amount of duty on that country's goods landed in Canada; and those countries who made such an arrangement were put on the intermediate tariff, which was lower than the general tariff. The preferential tariff, given to British goods, was below the intermediate tariff. The House would, therefore, see that by agreement many countries might be able to get the duty on their own goods reduced from the general to the intermediate scale, and to that extent the preference to Great Britain would be reduced. In the long run it might perfectly well be that a number of countries might make arrangements with Canada, and so very substantially cut down British preference. The advantages of a scientific tariff were much greater than people supposed. He had made the frank confession that he had been a free trader in theory, and he would make another confession, which was that what had altered his view was incidental evidence which had come before him in the Steamship Subsidies Committee upstairs. He observed that foreign countries, especially the Germans, put ingenious special rates on particular goods, and pushed them into our Colonies; and that some alteration must be made, unless Germany adopted free trade also. His hon. friend and he, in bringing forward this Amendment, desired in the first place to affirm the principle of giving a preferential basis to trade with our Colonies. They did not want foreign nations to be able to bargain with one portion of the Empire to the detriment of another portion of the Empire, and thereby to gain an accession of trade which of right, and in the natural course, ought to be an accession of trade to us. It was the wedge that foreign countries were pushing into British Imperial trade, and a wedge which, if this Amendment were adopted, we could perfectly well avoid. It was our duty to try to bring the Empire together as a united family. We ought to strive for the self-defence and solidification of the Empire. Speaking for his hon. friends and himself, they did not want to see the Mother Country left out in the cold, unsympathetic, when all the Colonies were drawing themselves together by these bonds. He was sure that hon. Gentlemen opposite in the bottom of their hearts could not but desire that closer union, and yet, by the logic of facts, unless they altered their present attitude he failed to see how they could prevent the Mother Country being left out in the cold. It might so easily be too late. The coming Colonial Conference would afford an opportunity to express our good will towards preferential trade, and to follow a policy which, he ventured to say, was clearly and succinctly and ably put forward by his right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition on Friday last. They wanted to link the Empire together, not merely by bonds of sentiment, which might perhaps be volatile and evanescent, and might change with succeeding generations, as history showed, but by a closer commercial union, for which there was already a foundation, and which he trusted would long continue to grow and increase.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question to add the words, 'But this House humbly expresses regret that no reference is made in Your Majesty's Speech to the approaching Colonial Conference, and to the opportunity thereby offered for promoting freer trade within the Empire and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis.'"—(*Mr. Hills.*)

Question proposed, "That those words be there added."

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said the House never had more occasion for regretting the absence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham than on the present occasion, because, while speaking with the utmost respect of the ability of the mover and seconder of the Amendment, they could not help feeling what a difference it would have made if they could have had reality given to this proposal, which the Member for West Birmingham alone, he thought, was able to give to it. Among the Members present he saw the former Secretary of the Board of Trade, a special follower of the Member for West Birmingham. No doubt the hon. Gentleman would address to the House reasoned arguments on the subject; but surely he must feel, and all must feel, that a general election had passed over these islands, and no one on the other side would assert, as they had asserted with reference to Chinese labour, that on the fiscal question there had been an appeal to ignorant prejudice. He was sure that no one on the other side of the House would pretend for one moment that the discussion was not a thoroughly reasoned discussion. [AN HON. MEMBER: What about the big loaf?] He would undertake to say that there had never been a general election at which more closely reasoned argument had been addressed by both sides to the constituencies than was the case at the last election on this subject, and for weeks before it took place. To start afresh that night and ask them to listen to the stale arguments not completely put, was hardly likely to induce the House to take a different view from that which the present Leaders of the House took in the last Parliament. They would leave these academic problems which had been disposed of by the general election until a very great change had come over the country—which for his part he believed would never come—in favour of preference in this particular form. As far as concerned the fresh aspect given to the matter by the meeting of the Conference under the auspices of the new Government, there was, he thought, a good deal to be said. The mover and seconder had used preference as an argument for drawing the Mother Country and the Colonies closer together, and in the course of their speeches they had glanced at something wider than what were called the Colonies; they had looked at the Empire as a whole. Even apart from Parliament the interests of this country were amply safeguarded, but the interests of the people of India were dependent on this Parliament alone. There were also 350,000,000 people outside these islands out of the over 400,000,000 in the Empire, and as compared with the between 11,000,000 and 12,000,000 in the self-governing Colonies, who had the first call upon us in regard to this matter of free trade and preference and arrangements for closer union which had been mentioned in the speeches addressed to the House. He noticed that there had been no allusion to the general election or to any new circumstances which had arisen after two or three years of full debate—a full debate in the country but not in this House, for reasons which he need not particularise. No new arguments had been addressed to the House, and there had been no allusion to certain differences which were supposed still to prevail on the Opposition benches upon the question. Probably the mover and seconder of the Amendment did not wish unnecessarily to arouse the sleeping dogs on their own side, and consequently there was a great prominence given to such articles as sugar, cocoa and dried fruit, and a complete suppression of all references to bread and meat. There was hardly an allusion to wheat except to express the hope that some day Canada might be able to feed us entirely. Obviously the constituencies, at any rate, had been persuaded that at the present time they could not afford to do without all the present sources of wheat supply. When the question was first raised after the famous Birmingham speech, and when they were confronted in the House by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham himself, that very argument was pressed, and he thought they carried the House with them. Afterwards an attempt was made to deal with the question of the wheat supply from Argentina, with which country we did so gigantic a trade and where we owned all the railways, supplied the capital and directed their industries, and it was found that we could not dispense with the wheat supply even from that country, because it was the main steadier of wheat prices. An attempt was made to dispose of that argument by considering the case of war, but even that made the position of the opponents of preference stronger. When Mr. Chaplin came to sit on the Food Supply Commission, he signed a Report which contained a paragraph pointing out the truth of the argument that it was impossible for this country, with safety to dispense with any sort of source of wheat supply, because the more sources this country had the safer should we be in case of war. That argument had considerable weight in the country, and it certainly seemed a little early now to revive that controversy. The mover of the Amendment had told the House that he was going to take them round the Empire, and although it was a somewhat formidable undertaking he hoped that the hon. Member would allow him to travel again round the Empire this time arm in arm with him. The hon. Member had ventured to visit India in the course of his journey, but he visited it with an open mind, and a fresh mind, and without reference to the unanimous opinion announced by the Government of India. Both the mover and the seconder had suggested that something could be done by preference to make India happier and more contented, and it was said this could be accomplished in regard to tea. Upon this point he need only quote from Lord Curzon's famous despatch in which he killed all such arguments. Speaking of preference generally, Lord Curzon said—

> "The balance was distinctly adverse to it and the preferential advantage we might hope to receive is neither large nor sure."

Then he went on to the case of tea, which he examined with the same care as he had done cotton and wheat, and he said—

> "In the case of tea, India and Ceylon already divide between them more than nine-tenths of the trade of the United Kingdom. For preferential treatment there is very little room."

Some hon. Members thought that because it had become a little fashionable in this country to call for China tea there had been an immense increase in its consumption. He wished to point out that this was like calling for Wallsend coal. The Wallsend pit had been worked out long ago, although they still were able to get coal of that class described as Wallsend on account of its similar and excellent quality. Most of the tea which was now being consumed in this country as China tea was not China tea at all, but tea of the same kind which came from India and Ceylon. They only needed to look at the figures to see the rapid shrinkage of the China tea trade, which had been astounding within the last two or three years, and as a matter of fact the real China tea trade for consumption in this country had almost disappeared. There was virtually no China tea and hardly any foreign tea consumed in this country with the exception of a small quantity of a special tea from Formosa. We could not offer any advantage to India by preference. It should not be forgotten that India paid £21,000,000 towards the defence of the Empire. India had 300,000,000 people for whom this country were trustees, and Members represented the Indian people in the House of Commons even more than their own constituencies. It had been said that a preference could be offered to Australia in the case of the wine duties, but how could that be done without raising a quarrel with Portugal, Spain, and France? What advantage would that be to a country which sent us only one twenty-second part of our consumption of wine? How could a policy of that kind be a substantial advantage to all Australia? Anyone who knew the Australian wine trade must know that such a policy would have to be very gradual indeed and it would be extremely doubtful in the result. The placing of preferential duties on sugar had been alluded to. With regard to duties on sugar he hoped they would be got rid of altogether. In his opinion the Sugar Convention was a breach and invasion of the principles of free trade. It had already been pointed out that India had lost her tea trade with Russia in consequence of the Sugar Convention which, in the opinion of the Government of India, had been the cause of the measure taken by Russia to penalise the Indian tea trade. Then there was the speech of the Under-Secretary made a week or two ago. There had been all through history difference of opinion among free traders upon the question of commercial treaties. With regard to making a treaty which would have the effect of reducing the duties and giving one country an advantage which would be given to all the world, the Under-Secretary knew that at the time of the Cobden Treaty there was the greatest difference of opinion upon that point. The argument was not new. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had addressed it to them. It was one of his main points. He himself (Sir Charles Dilke) had, with the consent of Mr. Gladstone, used in negotiation with France, Spain, Portugal, and other countries, the possibility of re-arrangement of our wine duties, without, however, making any change, as he had failed to find sufficient advantage for doing so. But was there nothing in the speech of the Under-Secretary that went beyond that argument? He hoped not, and he thought not. The phrase about the headship of the Colonial Office had always the danger lurking within it that the Colonial Office might be tempted, and the Conference might be tempted, to consider what was sufficient for the strong men present, and not what we ought to put first, namely, the real interests of the Empire as a whole which were by no means fully represented by the Colonial Conference. He wished to press a little further the questions which he and others had put to the Government to-day with reference to the representation of India. He said "India" because in this House they were conscious of the contribution which came from the Crown Colonies. There was always the danger that the Colonial Conference, even if they sometimes slipped in the word "Imperial," and even if the Secretary of State was sometimes there, might forget India. In previous Conferences India was forgotten. Attention was called to the fact in this House on the occasion of the Conference of 1902. Although India was nominally represented, the tables of the cost of the British Army showed the contributions of the different Colonies, but India was entirely omitted. The whole of the sum of £17,500,000 which India at that time paid on our bidding for war services was entirely left out. At that time, and subsequently when the tariff controversy arose, the Viceroy in Council, backed up by the unanimous Government of India, by no means showed gratitude, and on the contrary showed deep alarm in regard to this very Conference about to be held in the present year. Apart from what Lord Curzon said in the great despatch from which he had quoted a few words, he returned to the subject in the following year. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham having said that he thought the opinion of the Government of India was one which might be modified in the course of time, Lord Curzon used some remarkable words to which he wished to call the attention of the House. He said that their claim was that there should not in any Imperial scheme be imposed on India any system which was detrimental to their interest.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): Hear, hear.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said the late Chancellor of the Exchequer cheered that statement. He did not know what the right hon. Gentleman meant by that cheer. It was on that very point that he wished to have some very clear declaration. Lord Curzon contemplated at that time insisting on direct representation at the Conference by delegates apparently from India, and he used these words—

> "These would be the instructions with which our delegates would proceed."

What he thought the House would be anxious to know was whether the opinion of the 400 millions of people in India and elsewhere in the Empire, would be heard at the Conference as clearly, strongly, and emphatically as that of the 11,000,000 of people in the self-governing Colonies. That point led him to ask whether the proposer and seconder of the Amendment were justified in the assumption that the Colonies were going to ask for one thing, or were going to agree upon a policy in this matter. Was there the slightest evidence of it? Would the hon. Member for Gravesend tell the House what were the instructions of the Canadian delegates who were coming over to the Conference? They had not yet seen the actual text of these instructions, but he did not think they could be far wrong in collecting from Sir Wilfrid Laurier's speeches what they were. There was one argument in connection with the question of preference as bearing on closer unity that required thinking out a little more clearly than had yet been done, and that was as to the direction in which we were tending and what we meant the Empire to do. Was it possible to dissociate the arguments with regard to closer union from the citizenship of the Empire, from the position of the British subject in the British Empire? That question was so terrible and difficult that they shrank from it. When they came to consider the Indian grievance in that matter was it conceivable that they should ask India to give a preference to Natal? The whole of the trade of India, according to Lord Curzon, rested on her trade with Germany. German trade with India was not a very large fraction of Indian trade, but it was in articles which exactly suited the rest of Indian trade and fitted into it in such a way as to affect her money relations with all the other countries. That Lord Curzon had proved by an elaborate argument. Indian exports were as a rule not exports that could certainly stand against those of many other countries. They were not the best. Her cotton was not the best, but she held her markets, which rested on a delicate system of freedom of trade, and of that system her German trade was an essential part. Lord Curzon had shown how easily it might be upset. If they examined the articles of exportation they found that jute was most important to Bengal, and that linseed and rape seed were most important to large portions of the North-West Provinces. Their importation was a necessity for some important branches of German industry in which large capital was invested. That trade was important to Germany, but it was equally important to India to have that connection in her trade. There had never been sufficient justice done to that aspect of the question. As one who had never approved of Lord Curzon's policy, he thought it was all the more necessary where one felt admiration for it freely to express that admiration in this House. He did not think anyone would gather from the speeches made on the other side of the question the extent to which this country still depended and must depend on trade which was not specially British. When the President of the Board of Trade and himself brought this question before the House in 1903, they pointed out that our trade with foreign America was larger—and it was still larger now—than the whole of our trade with the self-governing Colonies. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment attached special importance to the export of manufactured articles, excluding bullion. The figures for 1906 were not yet completely available. In 1906, however, there had been an enormous increase all round. But even in 1905 the export of

British and Irish manufactured goods to foreign America was £56,000,000 in value, while to the whole of the self-governing Colonies the exports amounted to £52,000,000 in value. Was it wise to check that trade unless we could see a stupendous advantage and not a possible chance of doing something some day in Australian wine or Indian tea? But the policy which could be put before the country and accepted by the country must have somewhat larger features than the very small ones delineated to the House that afternoon. If raw materials were rejected it was admitted that the whole of this controversy must turn on bread and meat—there was nothing worth doing unless these were included, and that fact was one of those which had caused the preferential agitation to help free trade rather than to retard it. Our trade with India was very large and increasing much more rapidly than with any other portion of the world. Already it was rivalling the trade with the self-governing Colonies. That was a further reinforcement of the argument which he had addressed to the House in favour of considering whether our Imperial interests — our trustee interests, our higher interests — rested first of all on the case of India. Preference was supposed to lead up to a closer union throughout the Empire; and the questions put forward before the Colonial Conference—or as he preferred to call it, the Imperial Conference—seemed to be connected. They were to lead to what he thought was the unfortunate suggestion of a Consultative Committee, if it was to be anything but a name, put forward in the despatch of the late Secretary of State for the Colonies. That was a very doubtful experiment, and one which the House should watch with great jealousy. He was persuaded that Canada would never look at it. He believed—and he did not think he was wrong—that the instructions to the Canadian delegates would be to oppose tooth and nail anything of the kind. In regard to any chance of such a Committee being created New Zealand did not answer; Australia answered in a half-hearted fashion, and Canada answered in a hostile way. The *Quarterly Review*, in an article on this subject, said—

> "The assent of Canada and the Canadian Government is probably even more reluctant than their reply shows; and their reply itself shows that they think that the proposed Conference will become too strong and will threaten the independence of the Colonies, or that it will be barren and hardly worth attendance."

They were told that the great Commonwealth of Australia, which was profoundly protectionist, was rather sceptical as to the particular advantages that would accrue from preference either as regarded Queensland sugar, South Australian wine, or Victorian and New South Wales wool. The Dominion of Canada would not look at any preferences which would involve a lowering of their protective duties on the goods which English manufacturers were most anxious to send them. Canada was opposed to the proposed Consultative Council, opposed to a contribution for the defence of the Empire, opposed to any serious re-adjustment of the Canadian tariff or to accepting a preference if it was accompanied by serious modifications of her own tariff. Of course all those questions would have to be considered if there was to be any future re-organisation of the Empire on the lines suggested in the despatch of the late Secretary of State for the Colonies. He maintained that that reorganisation would be dangerous to the Empire, calculated not to bring about that union of hearts which they all desired, and which many of them had worked all their lives to bring about, but to sever and to part it. It would cause hostility and friction, and undo much of the good work which had been done on both sides.

*MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester) said it was a somewhat regrettable fact that the Amendment before the House would not allow them to discuss some of the questions to which the right hon. Baronet had referred in the closing sentences of his speech. He thought that the House could not do better work than consider the lines of Imperial reorganisation to which the

Colonies would submit. The question before the House was how far Imperial preferences would meet Imperial and Colonial needs, and how they would strengthen Imperial organisation. The hon. Gentleman who moved the Amendment had said that every year since preference was granted by Canada the Dominion had taken more cotton manufactured goods from this country than before. He did not want to belittle the results of the Canadian preference, but he found from looking at the figures that the amount of cotton taken was exceedingly irregular. In 1899 the imports of our cotton goods to Canada amounted to 56,000,000 lbs. weight; in 1900, 60,000,000 lbs.; in 1901, 54,000,000 lbs.; in 1902, 69,000,000 lbs.; in 1903, 73,000,000 lbs.; in 1904, 55,000,000 lbs., and in 1905, 63,000,000 lbs. The money value of the cotton goods followed pretty much the same fluctuating lines. The important thing in regard to Canadian preference was not the actual value of the goods which the Dominion took from Great Britain, but the relative value. In 1898 Canada took from Great Britain one-fourth of her imports of cotton goods; in 1904 it took under one-fourth. It was perfectly true that the Premiers of our Colonies were going to ask us to consider a preferential trade; but the question was, What did they mean by a preferential trade? They could easily delude themselves by using fine words that had no meaning; and what they wanted to discover was what were the practical business proposals which the Colonies were prepared to make which would justify the description of preferential trade. Neither the mover nor the seconder of the Amendment, when they told the House that the Colonies had deliberately and definitely adopted a preferential policy, took the trouble to inquire what the Colonial side of the bargain was to be. They did not mention that the cry in the Dominion was "Canada for the Canadians." This was not a political but an economic and industrial cry. It meant "Canadian work for Canadian workmen." It was precisely the same in Australia, where the cry was "Australia for the Australians;" "Australian work for Australian workmen;" and there was a very determined attempt at the present time to reduce to a disappearing point the amount of foreign products which could get over the tariff protection wall. Last summer there was a Bill before the Commonwealth Parliament making certain awkward conditions under which foreign manufactured goods should be placed on the Australian market. An Amendment was moved exempting Great Britain from those hampering conditions, but it was defeated by a large majority.

Mr. J. Ramsay Macdonald.

The Attorney-General, speaking for the Federal Government of the Colony, said—

> "As far as I am concerned I will not allow any goods to be admitted into Australia if the competition is intended to destroy our own industries, no matter where they come from."

The learned gentleman proceeded to say—

> "Would any loyal Australian permit that to be done even if the injury came from Great Britain?"

It was evident therefore that our preferential trade with Australia was going to be circumscribed within very narrow limits. The point was, how narrow were the limits going to be? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham said in Glasgow that part of the bargain which he believed he could strike with the Colonies was that they should continue manufacturing what they were now manufacturing, and that they should leave to us the manufacture of goods upon the production of which they had not yet embarked. There were very few wise things done in the course of that campaign, but one of the wisest was the withdrawal of that statement from the published reports of the speeches of the right hon. Gentleman. As a matter of fact, if they took the case of Australia, they found that last year the first effort was made to carry into effect these provisions in favour of Imperial preference, and then it was discovered that if, as the result of that preference, Great Britain captured the whole of the market that would be available for it it would only add to its Australian exports the magnificent sum of £900,000. As was very truly said by a critic of the proposal, Senator Clemons, the Ministry was trying to translate into law the cry of preferential trade, but the Bill which was introduced dealt with not more than one-twelfth of the total trade between England and Australia, and in no single case did it propose to lower the tariff in favour of Great Britain. It was not therefore a preferential admission but a preferential exclusion. That was the only attempt that Australia had ever made to carry its preferential proposals into operation. A good many people imagined that Australia was anxious that we should take her raw materials and that she would be exceedingly thankful if she were allowed to create a monopoly in our markets for them. Even that was a mistake, because one of the curious results of the complicated and extraordinary series of economic experiments that Australia was carrying on was that he had discovered that the export of raw materials was defeating the policy of "Australia for the Australians." He held in his hand the Reports of the Victorian Factory Department for 1906. These Reports, if studied from year to year, gave one a very curious indication of what legislation was going to be a few years afterwards. He found, for instance, in respect to wool and hides, that the factory inspectors told us that during 1905—this was an extract from the Report of Mr. Ingham, one of the factory inspectors—the largest fellmonger in his district had to close down his works as he could not pay the price for raw material that the foreign buyer was prepared to give. The result was that forty persons were out of work, which was a very serious state of things, because the wages were small even with full-time work. That was supplemented by the Report of another inspector upon the tanning trade. He said that trade had been better this year, notwithstanding the increase in the price of hides and the large quantity that had been exported, but experts said that until there was an increased duty on hides and skins this industry must remain in a backward condition. Another inspector, Mr. Billingham, reported in the same sense; and as a matter of fact there was a very serious discussion going on in Australia at the present time as to whether their policy of protection supplemented by their policy of wages boards and the other enactments fixing the price of labour, must not be supplemented by some sort of method that would retain for the Australian manufacturer first claim upon Australian raw materials, because if Australian raw materials were constantly being drawn out of Australia it was impossible to carry to its logical conclusion the policy of Australian labour for Australian workmen. When they followed out the matter in every detail they discovered that the intention of Australia was to limit the Imperial preference to the very narrowest margin. And it was not content to protect itself by ordinary tariff walls. Deputation after deputation had been received by Mr. Deakin from manufacturers who wanted to manufacture more than they did now, but who said they could not compete against English manufacturers' goods under the present tariff, unless they received a bounty. They said they were prepared to allow the English to have preference, but the tariff against England must be sufficiently high to keep the Australian market for everything they wanted that market for, and if the Australian Government thought it inconvenient or improper to build up that tariff wall sufficiently high for their purposes they should leave it low and give them a bounty. During the recent campaign one of the most important points that told in favour of the then Ministry, the Ministry which is likely to be continued in office, was the agitation in favour of bounties for native industries. Let the House be perfectly clear in its mind that in carrying out these intentions, Australia is not to allow its connection with Great Britain to hamper it. The acting Home Secretary pointed out the great difficulty which they had in apprenticing their children to engineering, and he said the reason was that English machines to the tune of a million and a half were admitted to Australia last year in spite of their protection. There they had the narrow and diminishing market open for preference. It was true that in April the Australian representatives would be prepared to ask us to give them a preferential tariff, but to take advantage of the small market offered we should have to completely change the fiscal policy of our own country, and that would be absolutely unthinkable under the circumstances. It would involve protection, because there could be no preferential treatment until we had protection, and, moreover, if we were going to protect the Australians and Canadians on our markets we should have to protect the English producer against both of them and the rest of the world. He ventured to assert that the people of this country would never accept such a condition. He did not believe for a single moment that

Canada was going to press us one way or another. He had read nearly all of the important speeches delivered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on Canadian preference, and it was perfectly true that he had given a good many reasons why he offered us that preference. One reason was that we might meet them in some respect, but another was that he hoped that it would be the first step towards the establishment of free trade within the Empire. He thought, however, that free trade within the Empire was so far off that this House need not trouble about it at all. Canada's attitude was perfectly correct. She recognised her great obligations in the matter of Imperial defence, and she was anxious that this country should never have an opportunity of interfering in the slightest degree with her self-government. She was going to make no arrangement with us which would justify us in interfering in any way with her self-government, and she knew perfectly well it would be exceedingly improper if she tried to force our hands in regard to a policy which intimately concerned our own people. He did not anticipate that the Canadian offer would be anything more than a friendly offer to be withdrawn immediately the home position was stated. Therefore when they asked the Colonies what they meant by Imperial preference they discovered that it meant nothing at all, that the markets offered to us were narrow margins which the Colonies tell us frankly they propose as soon as possible to take for themselves, that it was to a considerable extent merely a political cry used for Party purposes and nothing else. When they analysed the offer to discover what the substantial business proposition was going to be, or on what industrial or economic bases it was built, they discovered that these things did not exist at all.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) regretted that any Party spirit had been displayed upon this subject. He would try to speak of it in a tone as far as possible removed from Party prejudice, because he realised that the discussion dealt with issues far wider than were usually debated within those walls. On these grounds he was sorry that the issues had been already confused. It was suggested that the Government had not yielded to the hope expressed in this Amendment because they believed that if we were to have commercial union on the basis suggested in the Amendment our food would cost us more. He thought that was an inaccurate rendering of what hon. Members opposite meant to convey. What they really contended was that if commercial union on a preferential basis was obtained by a readjustment of taxation, including a preferential duty on corn, then our food would cost us more. That was a subject upon which he felt it was perfectly futile to bandy words between the two sides of the House, because he was convinced he would never be able to convert hon. Members opposite, and that no matter how eloquent hon. Members opposite might be they would never convert him. Therefore, in view of the larger interests which lay behind the discussion the House ought to realise what it was they had to concentrate their attention upon, and that was, that this was a discussion not of the effect of any particular set of means, but as to whether the end was worth attaining, and whether in order to attain that end it was worth while to discuss the possible means. That, in his opinion, was the point it was most profitable to discuss. In that connection it had been said in the country by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies that though this end might be desirable in itself, and might possibly arrive in some way in the future, it was worse than useless to attempt prematurely, as it were, to force it now by any action we might take. The views of those who held that opinion were that in time, if we did not approach our ideal of preferential union on a commercial basis, we might make a large step in that direction; that the preferences we now enjoyed with our Colonies might grow and extend and mature. He wished he could think that that would happen. But we had had the strongest possible warning not only in the spoken words of our Colonies that such a thing could not occur, but tangible warnings, as in the case of Canada, in the shape of the intermediate tariff, in the case of New Zealand in the shape of a similar tariff; and in the latter case the warning was the more ominous, because it was well known already that various negotiations had been going on between the Government of that Colony and other Governments. In regard to South Africa we had had warning more clear and specific than in any other case, as was shown by the views put forward by Dr. Jameson, the Prime Minister of that colony, a little more than a year ago, when he said—

> "The South African Colonies may at some future period abolish a preference which was always intended as a step towards free trade within the Empire, if it is found that no consideration will induce the Mother Country to follow up the experiment."

It was these considerations which led him to believe that without some action on our part it was almost impossible and incredible that we should achieve the end we had in view. Had hon. Members considered the possible effect upon this country if we did not achieve that end? Had they considered the possibility, if Imperial and commercial unity were not attained, that their food would cost them more? Had they considered in that event that the loaf might be no bigger and the means with which to buy it might be less? The suggestion that we might have less money wherewith to buy the loaf touched the domestic side of the question of tariff reform, and with regard to that he would only say that if the preferences which we enjoyed at the present moment were modified, if there was less opportunity to send our exports to Colonial markets, we should have less employment for the people of this country. Was it the case that employment in this country was as good as we might desire? Was it not the fact that of our skilled trade unionists something like 4 per cent. were out of work? He wondered if hon. Members ever considered what was the number of skilled workmen unemployed in Germany and America, or if they had read the Order Paper and seen the Amendment down in the name of an hon. Member of the Labour Party? He did not, however, intend to press the subject, because it touched the domestic side of the question, which he would rather the attention of the House was not strictly confined to to-day. At the same time the House must remember what effect these preference arrangements had had and must in future have on our trade. Let them take for instance the effect of the Canadian preference on our exports of woollens to Canada. In 1893 we sent her $9,500,000; in 1894, $8,000,000; in 1895, $6,750,000; in 1897, $5,500,000, then mark the effect of preference. In 1898, $6,250,000; in 1901, $8,000,000; in 1903, $11,000,000, and in 1905 over $12,000,000. Turning to the question of the intermediate tariff of Canada he desired to point out that the duties under the tariff were about 10 per cent. below those of the general tariff. The reason for that tariff was clear. As Mr. Fielding said in introducing the last Canadian Budget, it was to show that there was something which foreign countries might obtain if they desired to do so by entering into negotiations with Canada; to show that they might obtain an equal tariff for equal compensation, and that they might obtain part by part compensation. That was the idea with which that tariff was started. It was a standing offer to Germany and to the United States of America to enter into an arrangement with Canada and obtain a larger share of the exports to Canada, with the result that we should get less trade. Let the House suppose that Germany was to enter into a treaty of reciprocity with Canada; under the intermediate tariff her hosiery for instance would go into Canada at a 30 per cent. duty instead of 46⅔ per cent. as against the British 22 per cent. Would a single hon. Member opposite rise in his place and say that would make no difference to employment in this country. Then, again, the possibilities of Canada as a wheat exporter were hardly realised by the House. Very few hon. Members realised that there were in Canada awaiting the plough wheat lands which exceeded the lands of France, Germany, and Austria put together. Had they considered what might be the effect of Canada's entering into reciprocal arrangements with the United States? Perhaps some hon. Member might say there was no danger of such a thing occurring. Had they considered the strong inducement of Canada to take such a course? Wheat grown in Canada had to find its way to the sea within a comparatively short period, roughly speaking about eight weeks; and it had to pass over comparatively narrow channels of railway, through a sort of gullet. The result was that every autumn a very large quantity of wheat was left in Canada; it could not be exported, and it was stored for the most part in big elevators around Fort William, which corresponded with the port of Duluth on the American side of the frontier. The cost of freight from each to the seaboard was much about the same; the storage of grain was practically the same, yet when they came to look at the sale of the wheat at these two different places, if they looked at the quotations for Feb. 18th on Duluth and Winnipeg Exchanges, they would find that the American was sold at 80¼ and the Canadian at 77⅝ cents per bushel. When they considered what that meant to the Canadian farmer they would see the inducement which was offered to him to enter into reciprocity with the United States. The difference, roughly speaking, regularly varied from 10d. up to as much as 7s. a quarter against the Canadian grower. Why? Because he had got his wheat on hand. He had to sell it. With the large supplies which come into the market from every quarter of the globe it was impossible for him to continue holding it on his hands. He could not sell it in the markets at his doors, for he was barred from the United States market by a duty of 25 cents per bushel, and he was obliged to sell it to us at a cheaper price. [MINISTERIAL ironical cheers.] Yes, we bought it from him at a cheaper price; but let the House look at it from the point of view of the Canadian farmer. This was the contribution which the Canadian farmer paid towards the British Empire. How long did they think it was likely that he would go on paying? Every year the wheat lands in the United States were being more and more worked out and the crops were becoming lighter and lighter; and they knew that with a light crop in America there was a heavier discount against Canada. America, too, realised the advantages which reciprocity with Canada would bring her. If hon. Members looked at some of the literature at the Presidential elections, they would see how important this subject was felt to be, and how first one side and then the other endeavoured to impress upon the electors that they were the people who were going to bring about reciprocity with Canada. If hon. Members would look at the question from the Canadian point of view, and from the point of view of the possibilities of Canada, he thought they would see that there were the strongest possible inducements to try and open the door of the United States market to Canadian wheat, and if that ever happened the door through which our manufactures entered, Canada would be closed in a great measure, and a source of cheap spring wheat would be cut off from us. Then indeed "our food might cost us more." Some hon. Members opposite treated this question as of little concern to us, as though the interests of the Colonies were matters in which we should take no primary concern. He knew that view obtained among hon. Members opposite, and he could not hope to argue successfully with them, because they had no common ground from which to start. But there were hon. Members opposite who did not believe that the first interests of the people of these islands was to obtain the largest possible share of profit for Great Britain. There were many to whom Empire meant far more than that, who did not look upon the British Empire merely as a business proposition, a subject for haggling and squabbling in the endeavour by each part of it to beat the rest, but who looked on it as a common heritage which was also a valuable commercial asset. He and those around him believed with those hon. Members that it was our privilege and our duty to enjoy that heritage and try to develop that asset. He and those around him had their own views, and they had tried to give expression to some of their reasons as to why we should develop that asset, and how it was possible to achieve that object. They believed that those views did commend themselves to our kinsmen in the other Britains, and would ultimately commend themselves to the people of this Britain. He did not want to cry "Little Englanders" to hon. Members opposite, who thought in all sincerity that they who held different views from themselves were mistaken. But was not that the greater reason why they should agree that it was in the best interests of the Empire that there should be a conference and discussion in order to arrive at the best means of achieving what they all admitted to be a common ideal? If that were so, why should they not join in regretting that His Majesty's gracious Speech had not given expression to a sense of the importance of the forthcoming conference and its immense possibilities for the furtherance of the prosperity of the Empire and the common welfare of its people?

*MR. GIBB (Middlesex, Harrow) said there was a common desire that the Colonies should be drawn and kept closer to the Mother Country, but was the commercial union or preferential system one calculated to secure that object? We were a free trade country, but historically we were a protectionist country, and we had experience of protection and knew what the result of the Preference system was. In the forties, the "hungry forties," British ship-building was a decaying industry. A Committee was appointed to inquire into this matter among others. The shipbuilders declared that they could no longer build ships to run them at a profit; and shipowners said that they were not desirous of withdrawing altogether from shipping, but were investing in German ships rather than in British. The reason for that was expressed in the one word "preference." We were granting a preference to Canada over the Baltic, and it was the Baltic timber that the British shipbuilder wanted. The country was faced with a difficulty, for Canada was already expressing the very strong feeling that if the preference were withdrawn from her she would be robbed. The English people had to make up their minds, and who to-day would say that their decision was wrong or unwise? Everyone to-day would agree that it was a wise decision, and that by it an industry was saved. British shipowning had since the withdrawal of the preference made marvellous progress, being five times what it was then. Last year we built three-fifths of all the ships built in the world, and yet shipbuilding was the industry which was decaying only sixty years ago. Of steel steamers over 3,000 tons, which would exclude those for the American lakes, we built four out of every five that were built in the world. That never could have been but for the fact that we put an end to those preferences. What was the effect in Canada? There was strong resentment, and a resolution was unanimously passed by the Legislative Assembly in 1846, and addressed to Queen Victoria, to the effect that it was much to be feared that should the inhabitants of Canada, from the withdrawal of all protection of their staple products, find that they could not successfully compete with their neighbours in the United States in the only market open to them, they would naturally and of necessity begin to doubt whether remaining a portion of the British Empire would be to them of that advantage which they had hitherto been inclined to believe. If they granted preference what advantage would the Colonies gain? Certainly not the advantage of fresh markets. The producer in Australia knew at the present time that there was a market for as much wool as he could produce. As far as Canada was concerned, this country was now taking 90 per cent. of her exports of farm produce. Therefore we should not be giving the Colonies a market which they did not already possess. All it would do would be to give them a little higher prices for their goods. But at whose expense would this preference be carried out? At the expense of the poor people of this country, because the poorer a person was the larger was the proportion of his income spent upon food. The agricultural labourer spent on an average three-fourths of his income on food, and it was food that they proposed to make dearer in order to give a preference to the colonies. If such a policy were adopted how long would it be before an agitation would arise against paying so dearly for this preference? There was not at the present moment any anti-colonial party in this country; everybody was anxious to have the Colonies drawn as closely as possible to the Mother Country. That was not always the case, because at one time there was an anti-colonial party in this country, and how long would it be before such a party would arise again under preferential treatment? The very object in view, viz., that of drawing the Colonies and the Mother Country closer together would be defeated by the system of preferences proposed by hon. Members opposite.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said the hon. Member for Leicester had just returned from the Colonies, and he had given a most interesting view of the policy about to be pursued, not only in Australia, but in Canada and New Zealand. He had shown that the policy in Australia was Australian work for Australian workmen. He had never heard a better protectionist speech, and the only thing he could not understand was why the hon. Member was not in favour of British work for British workmen. His speech had shown most clearly that there was a very strong movement in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand, and to some extent in South Africa, of a protectionist character, and they evidently feared British competition. This very fact made it more imperative that at the present time they should look at this matter from a purely business aspect. If the Colonies saw there was no corresponding movement to draw them closer than existed under the commercial basis of the present day they would begin to put their duties higher and higher, and would feel themselves free to negotiate with the United States and other countries, who would not be slow to offer those preferences which this country denied to them. The President of the Board of Trade made an absolutely non-political speech the other day at Walsall in which he said—

> "There ought to be no politics in business; he kept his politics and his business separate."

He asked the Government to act upon the principle enunciated by the President of the Board of Trade, and look upon this as a purely business matter, putting politics and political views entirely on one side. The President of the Board of Trade also said—

> "We have to face difficulties of commercial rivalry, difficulties of tariffs, and devices to keep out our business."

They had to deal with the situation exactly as they found it, and he asked the House seriously to consider whether it was not expedient for them to listen with an open and ready mind to the representations which would be made to them by the Colonial delegates at the forthcoming Conference. The mover of the Amendment had called attention to the state of affairs within the Empire, and had said that there were commercial arrangements between Canada and Australia, Canada and New Zealand, Canada and South Africa, Canada and the West Indies, Australia and New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, and New Zealand and South Africa. That being the case, was it reasonable or fair to this country to watch these commercial arrangements being made for closer commercial intercourse between all the daughter-lands of the Empire whilst the Mother Country was being left out in the cold? On both sides of politics in the United States there was a strong movement in favour of giving preference not only to Canada, but also to New Zealand and Australia. That was the business matter which they had to face. There was a tendency in all foreign countries, whether in Europe, or in the New World, to put the duties against British goods higher and higher. British trade with foreign countries had not that buoyant character which Colonial trade possessed, and there was a greater difference every year between the imports and the exports. The imports of this country from foreign countries considerably exceeded our exports. In fact, they were £150,000,000 more than our exports, whereas our exports to the Colonies very nearly equalled our imports from the Colonies. There was a reciprocal trade, and the only difference was a matter of £4,000,000 or £5,000,000, which was accounted for by the difference in freights and by the returns and the imports in British countries. It had been said that we could not deal with this matter to the exclusion of India. At the present time an import duty of 5 per cent. was levied upon all articles arriving at the Indian Customs House. He would like to know what there was to prevent the Indian Government putting a higher duty upon imports from foreign countries, leaving the duty on British goods at the level of 5 per cent. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had dealt with the trade of Germany with the Indian Empire.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he only quoted Lord Curzon's opinion upon it.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT said that Lord Curzon was a great authority on the subject, and he hoped they would have the advantage of his presence in this House before very long. What were the facts to be derived from the books in the Library in regard to Indian trade? The imports into India during the last year amounted to £52,000,000 sterling. Of that total £44,000,000 came from Europe, of which no less than £34,800,000 came from the United Kingdom. We had an enormous preponderance of the trade, and from Germany the imports were only £1,500,000. The exports of Indian produce amounted to £43,000,000 sterling to Europe, £21,000,000 of which came to the United Kingdom and £6,700,000 went to Germany. Therefore the trade of the United Kingdom with the Indian Empire, imports and exports together, amounted to £55,000,000, whereas the whole trade of Germany with the Indian Empire was only £8,000,000 in round numbers. Those were the latest figures available, and he did not think in considering this question we needed to regard the German interests in the least. The only interest we had to regard on this subject was the British interest and the interests of the Indian people who were committed to our care. There was a duty of 5 per cent. levied on every single article *ad valorem* ariving at the Indian Customs House, and there had been no proposition to increase it. The only thing that would be an advantage was that that duty should be increased upon foreign articles imported. Some doubt had been expressed as to the advantage of preferences to this country. He remembered that a former Member of this House admitted that our trade with Canada had considerably increased, especially in his own line of business, since the adoption of preference. The British imports into Canada in 1897 amounted to $29,000,000 when the 12½ per cent. preference was announced, and in 1906 they amounted to $69,000,000 when the preference was 33⅓ per cent. That was a very large increase indeed. There could be no doubt whatever that one great advantage of the preference had been that it had attracted British capital to Canada to a much greater extent than previously. What was true of Canada was also true of Australia and the other Colonies. Here we had two sets of customers—the foreigner on the one side and our own kith and kin on the other. Was it not perfectly obvious to any business man that we ought to give an advantage to the people who were giving us better terms than the foreigner? We had this opportunity now. How long it would last he did not know. The Empire was enormously indebted to Sir Wilfrid Laurier for taking the line he had. The policy in regard to preference originated with the Conservative Party in Canada, but Sir Wilfrid Laurier as head of the Liberal Party took the view that this was an object to be aimed at. He was glad that there was at the Board of Trade a statesman who had an open mind on this question. He earnestly appealed to the right hon. Gentleman and his supporters to look at the matter wholly and entirely as a business question. If the right hon. Gentleman did that he felt convinced that the result of the coming Imperial Conference must be to draw closer the commercial ties which united us. Nobody appreciated more than he the sentimental feeling which there was in all the Colonies for the Mother Country. The colonists spoke of England as home, and surely if we could do anything to promote this view it was our duty to do so. Nobody, he thought, would question that he had a clear right to speak on this matter. His constituents had returned him to Parliament mainly on this question. He would give the figures with regard to cutlery which appeared in the Board of Trade Returns for the year ended December, 1906. The imports of foreign cutlery in 1906 amounted to £109,662 or £30,484 more than in 1905, and nearly double the amount for 1904. The exports of cutlery in 1906 were £706,059, or £10,000 more than in 1904. Of this £349,724, or nearly a half, was taken by Australia, Canada, India, South Africa, and New Zealand, while other parts of the Empire took a large proportion of the £128,000 ascribed to other countries. What did foreign countries do for us? Russia, Germany, France, Sweden, Norway, Belgium, and Holland together, with a population of something like 150,000,000, took only £33,343 worth of cutlery, or

£1,519 less than the small British Colony of New Zealand, with a population of 1,000,000. That showed that to the cutlers of Sheffield one New Zealander was worth in trade 150 foreigners. The late Lord Salisbury had said more then once that in his view—and he believed it was the view which had been adopted by the vast majority of the Unionist Party and of the 2,000,000 or more of their supporters in the country—it was to the trade carried on with the Empire that we must look for the vital force of the commerce of this country. He earnestly hoped that nothing would be said on the Treasury Bench to-night to convert this matter into a political question. He hoped the President of the Board of Trade in winding up the debate to-morrow would not do anything to prejudice the question. It was essential to do something to meet the Colonies in this matter, because if we did not it was inevitable that, whatever their feeling or sentiment was, their trade instincts must induce them to open their ears to the overtures made to them by other countries.

MR. McLAREN (Staffordshire, W.) said that neither the hon. Member who moved the Amendment, though he spoke in great detail of the concessions which we should grant to the Colonies, nor any of the other Members who had spoken on the Opposition side, had said anything to give to the House a clear idea of what were the benefits we were likely to obtain from the Colonies. He would have thought from a perusal of the speeches of hon. Members who were interested in the question that Colonial preference was to be a matter of mutual concession. Perhaps that was because they were conscious of the fact that the Colonies' attitude towards England was ably put before the House by the hon. Member for Leicester. He hoped that before the conclusion of the debate they might be enlightened by some right hon. Gentleman as to the views of the Party opposite on this subject. The Colonial Conference would meet within a few weeks, and he thought they had a right to ask hon. Gentlemen opposite to state in definite detail the mutual scheme of preference which they proposed should be raised at the Conference. He believed there was a certain misunderstanding on the subject. He believed that the Colonies when they spoke of preference meant merely the placing of higher duties on the imports of foreign countries into the Colonies. That was not the view of those who upheld the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. He assumed that hon. Gentlemen opposite would say that we should have fair trade with the Colonies. The Colonies were dominated by the protectionist policy and yet, by preference, they would be asking the Colonies to reverse that policy. Furthermore, it should be remembered that the industries of the Colonies at the present time were infantile and some of them had grown up under a sheltering tariff wall. In all probability some of them were not industries that would have grown up naturally in the locality in which they were established but through the accident of a favouring tariff. Were we in this country to go to those interested in the Colonies and ask them to open those industries to the competition of their greatest rivals—the English manufacturers and traders? It was well known that we in England were only too ready to complain of the unfair competition of Germany, France, and the United States. But our industries had grown up under free trade principles, there was large capital at their back, and a large body of skilled labour to carry them on. And if we complained that our industries were hampered by foreign competition we had no right to call on the weaker Colonial industries to compete with our stronger. Further, it had been stated in detail by the mover of the Amendment and his supporters that the proposition was to give the Colonies a preference on the foodstuffs they sent to this country. That meant to give a preference to one class in the Colonies—the agricultural class—and to ask for a very great concession from the manufacturing class. The result would be that we would place ourselves in alliance with one party in the Colonies and at variance with another—the manufacturing and protectionist party. What we were asking for the Colonies was a grave matter, and there was bound to be a difference of opinion in the Colonies as to the desirability or possibility of such a bargain being carried out, because the manufacturing element would be on one side and the agricultural element on the other. Therefore there would arise in the Colonies a discontented party who would be suffering a certain amount of loss as a consequence of the policy of preference, and who would, in consequence, view the action of the Mother Country with a certain amount of disfavour. He did not think that that would at all conduce either to the harmony or to the unity of the Empire. It might be said that that feeling was exaggerated, but some people could not realise how easy it was to get up a feeling against the Mother Country among manufacturers who saw their wares being displaced by British manufactures, and it must be remembered that the more generous the Colonies were to the Mother Country in granting a preference, the more acute and the stronger would those symptoms be. He hoped that before the termination of the debate some clear and definite scheme sought to be put before the Colonial Conference would be stated by hon. Gentlemen opposite in order that the House might be able to judge whether that scheme was likely to be acceptable to the Colonies.

*MR. MOLTENO (Dumfriesshire) regretted that the mover of the Amendment had introduced a Party element into the discussion. As one who had resided in the Colonies, he had some experience of the views held there as to making their affairs and their relations with the Mother Country a subject of Party struggles here. He remembered that they were reminded last session by the right hon. Member for Croydon that the Opposition were weak in this House but were strong in support of the Colonies. He was afraid that the Colonial cloak was again to be used to cover the political nakedness of the Opposition. It was a matter of regret that that which had been used on more than one occasion by Mr. Disraeli and the Member for West Birmingham as a mantle of Imperial purple, had now shrunk to the dimensions of an article of the most ordinary domestic use. He rather distrusted this excessive deference to the Colonies which appeared again when the Leader of the Opposition spoke of the susceptibilities of Australia in the New Hebrides question, and the ruffled feelings of Natal last year. Did this mean that they had learned the lesson by experience that they had lost much by refusing to regard Colonial advice in the past? He would refer to matters of the first importance now. For example, the war in South Africa had been one of the matters which had brought the Unionist Party to their present position, particularly when regard was had to the failure of the results of the war to equal the expectations held out when it was begun; such, for instance, as the statements that it would open up boundless fields for British enterprise and British emigration. The two self-governing Colonies most nearly concerned in South Africa—the Cape and Natal—had made most urgent representations that they should not be precipitated into war, but their protests had been disregarded, with the result that the country had been plunged into a war which he believed to be one of the most disastrous upon which this country had ever been engaged. To take another occasion when it was a question of the settlement after the war, when the question of Chinese Labour, arose, all the self-governing Colonies had protested against it, and particularly that Colony most concerned—the Cape Colony. The Unionist Party owed their position largely, according to their own admission, to the question of Chinese Labour, which had been one of the principal causes of their undoing, and would have been avoided had they accepted the advice of the Colonies. There had been a series of resolutions and protests, extending over a number of years, by Cape Colony against the introduction of Chinese labour. Yet so little effect did those representations have that it had been stated by the Leader of the Opposition that there was no authority for saying that there was sufficient labour without the introduction of Chinese labour. When, however, the Prime Minister of Cape Colony spoke to this effect he did so on behalf of a large body of people who had experience in regard to these matters.

*MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Member is permitting himself a good deal of latitude on this subject. I do not think that the question of Chinese labour is relevant.

*MR. MOLTENO said he bowed to the ruling of the Chair, but pointed out that he was only referring to the matter as showing the loss which was entailed by not having regard to the opinion and following the advice of the Colonies in reference to questions of this kind. He merely wished to illustrate how the Party opposite had suffered by not having regard to Colonial opinion in matters of importance. By yielding to such opinion on another occasion they were saved from the disaster which would have followed a suspension of the Cape Constitution. Did the Party opposite believe in self-government as a system for maintaining the harmony and good government of our Empire and particularly the good feeling between the Mother Country and her Colonies? Did they desire to discharge their debt to the Colonies for the sound advice they had given? It was difficult to judge them by their words and arrive at that conclusion. They must be judged by their deeds, and one could not forget past experiences. By many actions in the past they had failed to show appreciation of the importance of self-government in the Colonies. They had put forward a proposal which overruled a self-governing Colony and they wanted to take away its powers altogether. When they had it in their power to confer self-government upon the new Colonies did they go to a pure and untainted source of self-government for their Constitution? No; they went back to the mouldy and musty Constitutions which existed before any self-government at all. They had gone back indeed to a debased period in Colonial history, and given a Constitution which was the negation of self-government, which would have, in short, done everything to accentuate the differences between the British Colonies and the Mother Country. So recently as last year they found the Leader of the Opposition making a strong attack upon the free Constitutions granted by the present Government because they were too free, they were therefore bound to ask what special claim the Opposition had to the confidence of the Colonies in the past. They bristled with horror at the mention of Home Rule for Ireland, and yet every Colony had passed a resolution in favour of the principle. Therefore the Party opposite could not be said to represent Colonial feeling. The Colonies did not like the introduction of their affairs into British Party struggles. Going back to Natal he recalled a difficulty last year between the Government and the Colony, in which this introduction was strongly deprecated and the Premier of Natal gave strong expression to it. He said—

> "They in this country had become the object of Party politics in the Mother Country, and it was very regrettable that when the Natal Government thought it necessary to enter a forcible protest with regard to the conduct of the Imperial Government they did not anticipate that their action would be fixed on by political Parties at home to make capital of. They did not anticipate they were to become the plaything of Party politics, and he felt in the interests of the Colonies that it was highly undesirable that matters affecting Colonial Governments should become an object of division between the parties at home.

That was a representation which he was sure would be endorsed by every Colony in the Empire. Returning to the Amendment, the case for which was opened with a very ample, not to say an elaborate survey of the Empire, he asked what was this desire for preference. It was the old "sole market" theory which at different times had possessed and dominated every European nation having Colonial possessions. It had dominated the Spanish and the Portuguese, and the Dutch in the East Indies and ourselves. It was that theory which had separated us from and lost us our American Colonies. Ireland was the worst case of the application of the "sole market" theory, because it was held in her case that she was not to engage in manufactures, but only in agriculture, and that she must get no manufactured articles from anybody except this country. That was an extraordinary application of the "sole market" theory, as it denied to Ireland all rights to trade and the "sole market" policy then attained the result which the hon. and gallant Member for Sheffield thought should be produced, namely, an increase in our Colonial and a decrease in our foreign trade. The folly of destroying foreign trade in order to create a Colonial trade was long ago demonstrated by Adam Smith. He said—

> "The Colonial trade has been continually increasing while many other branches of foreign trade have been continually decaying. The capital of Great Britain was turned from an

> employment in which it would have maintained a greater quantity of manufacturing industry to one in which it maintained a much smaller. The monopoly of the Colonial trade, therefore, like all other mean and malignant expedients of the mercantile system, depresses the industry of all other countries, without in the least increasing, but on the contrary diminishing, that of the country in whose favour it is established."

As he had said, the war of American Independence was the result of an attempt to impose the "sole market" theory upon the American Colonies, and when we considered our great Colonial Empire we might well pause before we tried to impose it again.

We had to day very excellent illustrations of this "sole market" theory. It was applied to the colonies of Germany, France, and Portugal, but he did not think that anybody would attempt to compare the prosperity of the colonies of those countries with the prosperity which undoubtedly prevailed in our own. He would show how it operated in his own experience. He was a director of a line of steamers which traded with Madagascar. Some time ago his company gave Madagascar a service once a month and a French line also gave them a service once a month, and the produce of the Island was regularly transported. The French were jealous of the English line, so they put on a ten per cent. duty as against this country. What was the result? His company had to drop their line of steamers, the people of Madagascar lost their bi-monthly service, and, the official French service proving unremunerative, they finally lost a regular service altogether. He thought that was a very good illustration of what happened when an attempt was made to apply the "sole market" theory, and he was certain that our South African Colonies, and we ourselves, were better off when the Colonies had the services of France, Germany, and Portugal as well as a British service than they would be if they had only the latter. The truth was that our Colonies had gained far more from the neglect of the Home Government than from the intervention of that Government in their affairs. He remembered discussing this question with a distinguished Australian, who said "You have your hot fits and your cold fits, and the hot fits mean fever; we prefer the cold fits." Our Colonies had prospered because they were free and because they were established by the enterprise and energy of individual Britons, and not by Government action, and never were the relations between the Colonies and the Mother Country better than they are to-day. They would not consent to part with this freedom. Sir Wilfred Laurier said on the 11th of this month—

> "The legislative independence of the Colonies which had existed for the last sixty years had been the closest Bond of Union that could be achieved between Great Britain and her Colonies, in fact he might say it had been the Bond of salvation or creation of the British Empire. The English-speaking countries would not take such an advanced step as was proposed when no actual grievance existed. He was happy to say that Canada had no grievance whatever as far as relations with the Mother Country were concerned."

He did not think that he remembered a period when there was less friction obtaining between the Colonies and the Mother Country than prevailed to-day. We could not have a hard and fast line. Edmund Burke had well described the true bond with the Colonies—

> "My hold of the Colonies is in the close affection which grows from common names, from kindred blood, from similar privileges and equal protection. These are ties which though light as air are as strong as links of iron."

There must be perfect freedom to all parts of the Empire to manage their own affairs while they should all give a common support for common objects. He believed those words of Burke's to be as true to-day as they were then. That gentleman had compared our relations with the Colonies with that of air, he (Mr. Molteno) would compare our relations with our Colonies with ether, which was a perfectly elastic and frictionless fluid for some purposes and a rigid solid for others. He would say let all the different parts be perfectly free to make and control all those things which concerned them solely, let them join together and resist, like adamant, all agression from the outside. That was the true relation that we should have between the Colonies and ourselves. He asked the House in all seriousness to look back to what was said by the late Lord Salisbury, who, speaking in the maturity of his judgment, in almost the last speech he made, laid down certain rules and gave certain warnings which had great value to-day. He said—

> "We cannot safely interfere by legislative action with the natural development of our

relations with our daughter States. All kinds of difficulties are there before us, difficulties as to the burden of finance, difficulties as to the duties of defence, difficulties as to the rights and duties which the Mother Country should retain, and unless feeling is rising very high and we have a great force behind us, I look with some apprehension upon any attempt to anticipate events or to foreclose the results, the precious results which if we are only patient and careful the future has in store for the Empire."

Then he proceeded further and said—

> "There is nothing more dangerous than to force a decision before a decision is ready, and therefore to produce feelings of discontent, feelings of difficulty, which if we will only avoid, if we will only wait, will of themselves bring about the results we desire."

He earnestly urged the House not to make this a Party matter, as that might tend to injure the relations now existing between the Colonies and ourselves, and that was a thing which no Member of the House desired.

*MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn) said he desired to address himself to the second part of the Amendment, because he believed that if it were possible to carry out the second part the first must necessarily follow. He had listened attentively to the debate in the expectation that some hon. Gentleman on the Treasury bench would have given the House some idea of the feeling of the Government on this great question, because, as he judged from the speeches not delivered of hon. Members sitting on the Ministerial side of the House, there was a great divergence of opinion amongst them. It had been constantly stated that no offers had been made to us in this matter, but those statements had been made by those who did not remember the details of the proceedings of the Colonial Conference of 1902. If hon. Members read the Blue-book published in regard to that Conference they would find it stated therein that if Canada could be assured that the British Government would accept the principle of preferential trade, she would do everything in her power to meet them. Hon. Members would also know that at the time of that Conference the registration duty of 1s. was upon wheat. When Canada made the suggestion of preference she made special reference to that 1s. registration duty on wheat, and asked especially for exemption from it, promising in the event of our conceding it to consider the granting of further preferences to us. Everybody knew that that concession was refused by the Government, and he did not believe that there was a single Member in this House who thought in his heart that such refusal was a good thing. That duty made no difference in the price of bread, and it was quite certain that that which we should have obtained from Canada was well worth any sacrifice that we might have made. Since that time Canada had made considerable concessions to us in the shape of useful preferences to some of our manufactures, which in some cases had largely increased our trade with Canada. Where it had not increased the trade it had had the very desirable effect of stopping the alarming decline which was taking place when the preferences were granted. He would that an unfettered discretion were given to the supporters of the Government to vote as they pleased on the Amendment. It was clear that very little real difference existed between the two sides of the House as to the necessity for a closer union with the Colonies. As to the means only they differed, and not as to the end. What was needed was a declaration of the views of the Government. So far nothing had been said to show that they sympathised with the anxiety of the Colonies for some means being devised for bringing them and the Mother Country into closer commercial relations on a preferential basis. Did the Government intend to take no measures for the defence of the Empire against the hostile tariff attacks of foreign nations? The worst thing that could befall this country was that matters should be allowed to remain as they were. Trade was now being conducted by the nations of the world in ways totally different from those which prevailed thirty or forty years ago. We could not go on with a policy of isolation, which had been discarded by every other nation of the world. For his part he thought we ought to adopt at the earliest possible moment some plan by which we could successfully battle against the injury done to our industries by hostile tariffs. It was necessary that we should develop and give preference to those markets which had not only shown us the greatest sympathy, but the greatest indulgence. He for one welcomed the splendid spirit of Imperial enthusiasm for the Empire which we had inherited. He was sure that the necessity for the development of our industries would arouse even those who were called "Little Englanders"—at all events those who had not shown much appreciation of our Colonies—to endeavour to secure our Colonial markets for our home goods and also to impose taxes which would enable us to deal effectively with the great problems with which we were confronted and to limit the mischievous influence of foreign tariffs. We had been asked by our self-governing Colonies to enter into treaties of commerce with them. He did not know how long the Government proposed to ignore those entreaties. He would recall to the House recent words of Mr. Fielding, who said that if the British Government and people would not show appreciation of the value of preference, they must not complain if the Colonists saw fit to modify the preferential tariff. An hon. Member had referred to his experience of the Cape. He would also refer to a recent utterance of Dr. Jameson this year. Talking of the preference which had been given to us, he said—

> "I may even go so far as to say that the South African Colonies might at some future day abolish preference, which was always intended as a step towards free trade in the Empire, if we find that no consideration will induce the Mother Country to follow up the experiment."

He ventured to think that this very faithfully represented the feeling of Cape Colony. Then it was said that this preference could only be conceded by taxing food. More nonsense had been talked about this subject than almost any other. The Chancellor of the Exchequer got up the other night, and in the most emphatic way in which he could speak had said, "I will never put a tax upon food."

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): No, no.

*MR. REMNANT: That was the impression that his words gave to me.

MR. ASQUITH: What I said was that, so far as I am concerned, I shall never depart from the governing principle of our fiscal system by taxing any article of food.

*MR. REMNANT said he had accepted the right hon. Gentleman's denial that he had said that he would never put a tax upon food. He and a good many others, at all events, said that they could not have preference without taxing food. That was all he had said, and he failed to see the object of the interruptions of the right hon. Gentleman. But this country to-day taxed food to the tune of something like £66,000,000, of which £18,000,000 came from taxes on purely food products. By a little readjustment our Colonies might be relieved, and the foreigner made to pay the duty. A small tax of 2s. a quarter on wheat, levied only on the foreigner, would impose no hardship on the poor. Month after month the price of the 4 lb. loaf varied from 4d. to 6½d. in this country, and the price of the loaf was never the same in different centres of industry. Even on the assumption that the whole 2s. a quarter fell on the consumer, it would not make a difference of two-thirds of a farthing on the quartern loaf. The talk about dear food was a bogey. Canada asked, as part of the scheme for working on a preferential basis, that we should levy a 2s. tax on foreign imported corn and admit corn from the Dominion free. He believed it was not denied that this tax could in the early days of its imposition only fall partly on the consumer, and, as the corn-growing industry of our Colonies was developed, none of it would be borne by the consumer, and all of it would be borne by the foreigner. He would ask Members of the Labour Party, though there was not a single one present, important as this question was to them, if they knew of a solitary instance where a man had given up employment in another place because the quartern loaf was dearer there than in the place where he proposed to live. They knew that the reason a workman changed from one place to another was to get work, which he would do his best to get in spite of the fact that the price of bread varied a little in different places. It had been said that self-government which had been granted to the Colonies was one of the principal means of binding the Empire more closely together. He did not think any of them would disagree with that; but there were others who went on to say that, supposing the scheme of tariff reform made possible free trade within the

Empire, they would be prepared to accept that policy. As a matter of fact, free trade within the Empire was incompatible with the complete autonomy of its constituent parts. Free trade within the Empire would involve an Imperial exchequer with a central authority for the allocating of the revenue raised by the duties levied against foreign countries. That was to say, that if the Colonies wished to achieve free trade within the Empire, it would be necessary for them to abandon some of their self-governing powers, which he did not think those who had experience of them could expect them to do. At all events, his idea was this: that we should have a scheme of Imperial preference, based on moderate revenue duties, which would develop the agricultural and other industries of the Empire, and leave the self-governing powers of the Colonies intact. He also believed that the preference which they were anxious for, and which they hoped the House would eventually enable them to carry out, would take them a step further, making it possible for them to have on a great scale Imperial unity. He ventured to hope, though it was he feared an empty hope in this instance, where the Parliamentary Whips would not allow hon. Members opposite to exercise their discretion, that if they did not vote for the Amendment, they would at least show their sympathy by abstaining, and so help one step forward the great ideal of Imperial unity.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON (Yorkshire, W.R., Barnsley) said the hon. Member for Holborn had described the object of the Amendment as being to draw from the Government a clear statement of the policy they intended to pursue in regard to the question of preferential tariffs. Two years ago he had the honour on behalf of the then Opposition of seeking to draw from the then Prime Minister a statement explanatory of the views of the Government upon the fiscal question. On that occasion the then Prime Minister withdrew himself, his Government and his followers, and left the Opposition to talk to themselves. On this occasion the Opposition had no reason to complain that the Government were shirking the question. How was it possible to make a satisfactory arrangement, on a preferential basis, between a free trade country and highly protectionist Colonies? From the very nature of things, until they all started from the common basis of free trade, such a policy was absolutely impracticable. Reference had been made to the case of Canada. What were the exact trade relations to-day between this country and Canada? This country gave to Canada the only free market she had for her produce. Canada sent £25,000,000 worth of produce to this country, and England imposed no taxation whatsoever upon it. He was aware that Canada had given this country a rebate of 33⅓ per cent., which he appreciated very much, but that was only a generous recognition of the fact that this country had given her a free market. The Canadian Manufacturers' Association had declared that under no circumstances must the import duties on goods imported into Canada be reduced to a point at which they would not fully protect Canadian manufacturers. It was said that our iron and steel trade with Canada had increased. It was true that the enormous virgin country of Canada had been developed in an amazing manner during the last few years, and her prosperity had increased by leaps and bounds. It was true that since Canada had given this country a rebate our trade with her had increased, but we had to-day a less percentage of the total trade of Canada than before the rebate was given.

Mr. JESSE COLLINGS: That has nothing to do with it.

Mr. JOSEPH WALTON said the trade of the United States of America with Canada had increased more largely than the trade of Canada with this country in the last few years. Not only had Canada imposed high import duties against British goods, but she had also given large bonuses to the Canadian iron and steel manufacturers to enable them to make in Canada all the iron and steel railway material and other goods they required. When he last visited Canada he was told by leading politicians that in connection with the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway the Bill could never have been got through Parliament if it had not provided for the bounty system, which secured that the material would be manufactured in Canada. Even after making allowance for the rebate British imports to Canada were taxed to the extent of 20 per cent. In addition to this, bounties were given to Canadian manufacturers amounting to 1,509,000 dollars a year. That was how Canada treated their trade, whilst, on the other hand, this country gave Canada an absolutely free market for her produce. What basis for preferential treatment did such a state of things afford? He did not complain of the action of the Canadians in this matter, because he agreed that they ought to have absolute freedom to make their own fiscal arrangements as they thought best.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) called attention to the fact that there were not forty Members present. House counted; and, there being forty Members present—

MR. JOSEPH WALTON said that certain words had been quoted from a speech made by Sir Wilfrid Laurier. It had been said that unless we were prepared to give bounties to the Colonies on the goods and produce they sent to England the bonds of Empire would be weakened, and we should be in danger of seeing the Colonial trade pass to other countries. Was there the slightest foundation for that statement in the attitude of the Colonies? The hon. Member for Dumfriesshire had quoted Sir Wilfrid Laurier to the effect that it was the legislative independence that had existed for the last sixty years which form the closest bond of union between Great Britain and her Colonies. They had it on the authority of Sir Wilfrid Laurier himself, who was more entitled to speak on behalf of Canada than any other man, that unless the British Empire was willing to approach this question on the common basis of free trade between its component parts it was an impracticable proposal. He thought everyone would support free trade within the British Empire, but he did not think there could be found in the House of Commons a single advocate of a proposal to use undue influence to compel the self-governing Colonies to arrange their fiscal system otherwise than according to what they thought was best for their respective Colonies. It seemed to him strange that in drawing up this resolution, India, with its 300,000,000 people, should again have been omitted. The resolution merely dealt with creating freer trade between Great Britain and her Colonies, and there was no mention of India whatsoever. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean had pointed out how absolutely the Indian Government was against any such proposals as had been made. They had not yet had from the Opposition a definite statement of what the proposals were. By what scheme did they dream that they would attain the object in view? Certainly no proposal to tax the food of the people of this country would be passed during the present generation. He was certain that the people realised that our commercial salvation depended more upon free imports than upon any other circumstance. The people of India had unanimously condemned the suggestion that they should enter into preferential trade arrangements with either the Mother Country or the Colonies, simply because India sent three-quarters of her exports to foreign countries. She would be absolutely quarrelling with her best customers if she mixed herself up with any preferential trade either with the Mother Country or the Colonies. He hoped this debate would clear the air once more. In his masterly speech the hon. Member for Leicester had demonstrated how absolutely impracticable it would be to apply any such scheme to the Commonwealth of Australia. What we needed was not preferential tariffs with the Colonies. While he did not undervalue such concessions, he contended that the true bond of union of the Empire was to leave each component part absolutely free to manage its own affairs. It was on commercial fiscal freedom and on the energy with which we developed our trade in the great free markets of the world, such as China and India, with their 700,000,000 of population, that the continued prosperity of our country mainly depended.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) said he wanted to say a few words on the labour side of the question. Representing as he did a very large manufacturing constituency, and being concerned with the interests of the working classes, he never could understand why the question of whether our system of trade was the correct one or was capable of improvement should be treated on Party lines. It was possible that a discussion on preferential tariffs at the Imperial Conference might come to nothing; on the other hand, it might show that there was some possibility of mutual benefit, of increased trade, and increased labour. It was well known that Mr. Cobden, and those who worked with him, would have been glad to get rid of our Colonies, and they had no particular affection for India, "Perish India" having once been a current expression. He traversed the statement of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the Forest of Dean that this question was thoroughly threshed out at the time of the general election. That was a most audacious statement for any one cognisant of the facts to make. On the other hand, he asserted that the men of the Unionist Party who went in most thoroughly for tariff reform came out more successfully than those who discarded the question or wobbled about it. And then about the cry of "dear food," he was old enough to remember the price of food in the so-called "hungry forties," and bread was then as cheap as it was for forty years after the "hungry forties." Almost every article of common consumption, with the exception of some groceries, such as tea and sugar, was far and away cheaper than it was afterwards or now. He had many a time gone for milk at ½d. a pitcherful. [An HON. MEMBER: What kind of milk?] Separated milk. [Laughter.] It was not a subject to be laughed at, when at present milk was almost unobtainable by the children of this country. In those days a pitcherful of skim milk was not milk which had been skimmed by a separator which took all the fat out of it as was done at present. The skim milk was then as good as much of the new milk which was sold now. He had also gone many a time and got a pound of beef, a pound of pork, and a pound of mutton for 1s. If hon. Members could deny these statements, let them do so. But if they could not, let them avoid in future going about telling audiences who were not so well informed as to the facts that tariff reformers wanted to increase the price of the food of the people. The hon. Gentleman who seconded the Amendment had said that he was a free trader in theory. He (Mr. Collings) had always been and was now a free trader. He signed Mr. Cobden's petition for the repeal of the Corn Laws, and he ventured to say that if Mr. Cobden had lived to find that his dearest hopes of reciprocity from other countries were all falsified, he would have reviewed his position. The right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean had spoken of the views and opinions of Sir Lewis Mallet, the colleague of Cobden and a great free trader. Both Sir Lewis and Mr. Cobden were certain that other countries would follow us in adopting a free trade policy, but years afterwards Sir Lewis Mallet wrote that we had obtained enough free trade to allow the higher and middle classes to acquire more wealth, and spend it in vulgar ostentation; but we had not obtained enough free trade to feed and clothe our poor people. Some who were convinced free traders had been waiting for sixty years in the hope of getting free trade, but we were farther from it than ever. He traversed the statement of the right hon. Baronet the Member for Forest of Dean that this question of preference and protection was sufficiently debated at the last general election. The question was not dead, but would come again to the front at the next general election. The right hon. Baronet had asked what would become of this country if Argentina and other wheat producing foreign countries were stopped from supplying us with wheat. They did not need to discuss what would happen in time of war, for in any case the decayed state of our agriculture was such that our Army and Navy could not carry on a war for six months with any first class European Power, not to say two Powers, for the simple reason that our people would be starved out, and the working classes, rather than suffer the misery of starvation, would demand that peace should be made at any price. The annual consumption of wheat in the United Kingdom was 34,000,000 qrs., of which we grew only 7,000,000. India and the Colonies sent us another 7,000,000, and we were dependent on foreign countries for the remaining 20,000,000. His own belief was that there would be no difficulty whatever in doubling the supply of wheat grown at home, and more than doubling the supply from the Colonies.

AN HON. MEMBER: In case of war?

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: Yes, if this policy of preference were carried out the Colonies could feed the United Kingdom for eight or nine months, instead of as now for only three or four weeks. He always paid great attention to anything said by the right hon. Member for Forest of Dean, who invariably spoke after great study of a subject. But the burden of the right hon. Baronet's speech was that we should not enter into these preferential arrangements as to Colonial wines because we might offend Germany. Were we always to be afraid of the bluff of the Germans in respect of the Army, the Navy, and tariff reform? He was surprised to hear such a poor argument from the right hon. Baronet — that we could not hold our own in this matter mainly on the ground apparently that we must accept every knock-down blow from Germany, while not in any way retaliating. When Canada gave us a preference of 33⅓ per cent. Germany bluffed and Canada answered with a surtax. The right hon. Baronet had spoken of our exports to the Colonies as if they were a bagatelle compared to those to Argentina. As a matter of fact, our exports to Argentina amounted to £13,000,000, whereas those to Australia, New Zealand, and Canada amounted to £35,000,000, and to British India to £42,000,000. The total exports to British possessions reached nearly £115,000,000 sterling. He believed that by granting preferences, our exports to the Colonies could be increased by £15,000,000 or £20,000,000. That would largely increase employment for all our people, which he supposed would be acknowledged to be a very important thing. Up to 1897 our exports to Canada were steadily and rapidly going down, but since that year when Canada granted the preference to British products they had been steadily and rapidly going up, and that meant a considerable amount of employment to the people of this country. Was Canada always to give her preferences without any return being made by this country? Canada might at some future time withdraw her preferences because of disappointment at receiving no return.

MR. MADDISON (Burnley): We give Canada a free market.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS said that supposing 500 men came from Belgium to this country, and offered to work for 5s. a week less than the recognised rate of wages, what would the trade unions do?

MR. MADDISON: Ask the House of Lords.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS said that this was a very serious matter, and for a Labour Member to intervene in such a way showed a want of consideration. The trade unions would very properly denounce the employers of those 500 Belgians as sweaters, and the men as blacklegs. To his mind it would be better if the work was done here, because in that case the foreign workman would at all events pay rates and taxes, but at present they allowed the product of the sweated labour to come here free but not the labour itself. What did Sir Wilfred Laurier say only one year ago? He said—

> "We sat at a colonial conference when we were ready to discuss with you"

—that was the British Ministry—

> "articles upon which we could give you a preference; we were willing to make with you a treaty of trade."

[AN HON. MEMBER "The date?"] 28th September, 1905. Again he asked were there any men on the other side who would respond to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who was no mean person, and say he would not discuss the question with him and see if we could make a treaty? If we could not make a treaty, well, there was an end of it, but if we could, so much the better. But Sir Wilfrid Laurier had asked that the question should be discussed in that way. Several Members had alluded to the new Canadian tariff, and some had said that it was less advantageous to England than the former tariff. That was true, but it still gave us some advantage, and in the new tariff there was that remarkable provision which came under the heading of the "Empire Free Schedule." It contained a schedule of goods which, coming from Great Britain to the Colony, passed in without duty, but which, coming from other countries, had to pay duty. That really was a very important feature in regard to this new schedule, and it meant that anyone might get the benefit of this 33⅓ per cent. reduction on any article in the production of which 25 per cent. of British labour had been employed. The Canadian Government hoped that that would be of advantage to British labour, and they were wise to speak of the concession in that sense. He knew some of the most respectable and leading manufacturers of Walsall, one of whom had told him recently that a large percentage of the goods sent out from that town were German—were repacked in that town and sent from there oversea and so got this advantage of 33⅓ per cent., but in the end it was Germany who got the advantage. What he wished to point out was that this was a labour question, and that the proposals that they made were in favour of labour. Every Labour Member who opposed them, although he might be acting powerfully, politically was an enemy—unconsciously, perhaps—of labour, and he was prepared to maintain that view on any platform in the country and to give reasons for it. He agreed with the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean that before the next general election this question would have to be settled. It would have to be settled by the majority of the working classes, even if it was not settled by their leaders. When the Colonial Premiers met in 1902 they passed a resolution, which was not much spoken of by the so-called free trade journals, to the effect that a perferential treaty between the United Kingdom and the Colonies would stimulate commercial intercourse and strengthen the Empire. They also said that under existing conditions in the Colonies it was not practicable to establish free trade universally, but it was desirable that such Colonies as had not already given a substantial preference to the products and manufactures of the United Kingdom should adopt that policy. What we wanted more than that he was at a loss to understand. In connection with the gun industry in Birmingham, there were men out of employ. Why? [An Hon. Member: Gun licences.] Gun licences had nothing to do with it, as anybody would know who knew anything about the trade. The depression was caused because guns came over from Germany or Belguim, which were in the main made by the labour of those countries, but in which there was not sometimes 10s. worth of British labour. He handled a gun of that discription the other day. Some few years ago an English firm laid down some thousands of pounds of capital to compete with the barrels which came from the Belgians. What happened? The Belgian manufacturers combined, and for twelve months sent barrels at 20 per cent. less than cost price in order to shut this firm up. As there was no barrier against these Belgian barrels the firm had to shut up, and the price of the barrels went up higher than before. One had, to understand it, to go into this matter not from the masters', but from the workmen's point of view. There were so-called makers of guns in Birmingham who did not make guns but were simply dealers. They bought in Belgium and made their profit in that way, but in the meanwhile there were dozens of rooms in which men used to be employed standing empty, and only the fitting work was performed in this country. How long were the English people going to stand this state of things? Surely they were not afraid of Belgium as well as of Germany. He was speaking from the labour point of view, and the Labour leaders were not true leaders. They would have to recant before long, when they saw the distress in which our towns were plunged, when the trade was taken out of our hands, not by fair competition, but by absolute fraud, dishonesty, and unfair competition.

*Mr. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.) said they had all listened with the deepest interest to the able speech of the much respected Member of the House who had just resumed his seat. He was sure they shared with the right hon. Gentleman his regret that the Member for West Birmingham was not present to give actuality to this dull debate. He must point out, however, that the greater part of the right hon. Gentleman's speech was scarcely relevant to the Amendment. He had been defending with great force a frank scheme of protection, but it was not even a policy of protection which was shadowed forth in the Amendment before the House. Hon. Members opposite were apparently unable to make up their minds whether the preference should be argued as a matter of business or as a matter of sentiment. The general reply to most of the speeches made by hon. Members opposite was that good sentiment could not be founded on bad business. As a matter of fact the policy of preference was neither good free trade nor good protection. It demanded from the parties concerned two strongly contrasted sacrifices. From the protectionist Colony it demanded that it should abandon protection, and from the Mother Country that she should abandon free trade. A long line of distinguished economists, commencing with John Stuart Mill and ending with the right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for War, had held that there was a good deal to be said in favour of a Colony's developing itself in a many-sided way. This country having inherited liberal traditions and freedom as well as free trade, had always conceded to the Colonies the right to make up their own minds and so decide on their own policy. This Amendment was against the deliberately adopted policy of the Colonies and of the Mother-Land. It satisfied neither the free trader nor the protectionist. The right hon. Gentleman in his speech had not taken into account the future development of the Colonies. Already we got £20,000,000 worth of manufactured goods from our own Colonies, and in years to come that amount was likely to be multiplied again and again. One of the most significant things to be noticed in the speeches of hon. Members opposite was the remarkable fact that in the absence of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham, the cause of which all deplored, no one had given the House any details with regard to these schemes. What had become of the Glasgow programme, produced after great deliberation by the right hon. Gentleman? Scarcely three years had elapsed and the proposals of that programme had faded into thin air. Why? Because as a matter of business those definite proposals would not stand examination. The right hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had stated to the House what had taken place between the Colonies and ourselves and what he thought to be our obligations in the matter. He (Mr. Money) would remind the House that at the Colonial Conference of 1902 the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham himself stated that the Colonial Premiers' proposals were made without any reciprocal obligations; that they were made by them because the United Kingdom offered them the largest and most open market of the world. The right hon. Gentleman himself pointed out that if there was any obligation it was on the side of the Colonies and that any proposals they made did not involve any reciprocal obligations on us. Some arguments had been used by an hon. Member based on our present taxation, but it was not fair for any one to get up now and make proposals for preference based on our present system of taxation. It must be remembered that our present taxes on food were war taxes. In the year 1899, before the South African War broke out, we derived from the taxation of food a revenue of only £5,000,000—£4,000,000 from tea and £1,000,000 from coffee, chicory, raisins and the rest; and when the hon. Gentleman who opened the discussion referred to the tea and sugar duties, and proposed to make a bargain with certain Colonies or Dependencies producing those commodities, he had overlooked the fact that we had a debt to repay to the poor in this matter; that it was absolutely futile to base any suggestion for preference on the present system of taxation until the debt was paid, and that we must argue this question from the normal, and not the abnormal, state of things. With regard to the broadening of the basis of taxation, in his opinion it was not a broadening, but rather a narrowing, of the basis that was required. What was really meant by broadening the basis was the increase of the taxation of the poor. Indirect taxation was levied on articles commonly consumed, and by broadening the taxation on those articles a greater call was made upon the poor and a smaller call upon the rich. Then as to the distribution of British trade. Of the exports of British trade last year, according to the figures given by the Customs, £255,000,000 was distributed to foreign ports, and £121,000,000 to British Colonies and British Possessions. The total trade exports were to the Colonial exports as three to one. Those figures were valuable because they reminded this country of the distribution of its trade, and of the danger of making arrangements which would interfere with the larger part while we had only a shadowy probability of obtaining an advantage on the smaller part. The hon. Member for Leicester had described the practicability of free trade within the Empire as a far-off dream. He did not agree. It was a fact, not commonly recognised, that we nearly possessed free trade within the Empire as it was. So far as this country was concerned we had absolute free trade. So far as the remainder of the Empire was concerned, the larger part of our exports to British Possessions went to India and to Crown Colonies, over the Customs duties of which we had control and which, for practical purposes, possessed only a free-trade tariff. [AN HON. MEMBER: Was it a revenue tariff?] The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had himself pointed out that where duties were put on for revenue purposes that was no derogation of the principle of free trade as he understood it, and the right hon. Gentleman was perfectly right. With regard to the Colonies, a very large part of them were scattered communities, and they had to put duties on manufactured articles to get revenue; that was to say, no small part of the duties were imposed, not for protective purposes but for revenue; so that altogether we had a very considerable amount indeed of free trade within the Empire. The reference to "freer trade," he thought, did not take sufficient account of those facts. While fiscal reformers had been urging their case up and down the country, while the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham had been assuring the country that the Colonies alone would save our trade, and that our trade was falling off, what were the facts? While these very speeches were being made, it turned out that our trade was going up, though not chiefly with the Colonies, whose trade, however, was growing satisfactorily, but with foreign countries. In four years our foreign trade (he referred to our exports in deference to hon. Members opposite, who believed that in trade it was more blessed to give than to receive) had increased by over £80,000,000, and with British Possessions by over £12,000,000, the latter increase being chiefly through India. Now as to the practical value of the Canadian preference. Any man who urged that a reduction of duties — which, in some cases, were fairly high, in this case being one-third or one-quarter of the whole—was not of some kind of benefit to the country, was wrong. It was an absurd proposition. If there were any truth in it there would be no truth in free trade. It was undoubted that there had been a certain gain to our trade with Canada because of preference. But let them not exaggerate that gain. If they examined the trade for twenty-five years before 1897, they would find this remarkable fact, that the general imports into Canada practically did not vary, averaging all round about 100,000,000 dols. per year. They showed no decided tendency up or down. What happened then? By one of those curious changes in the history of countries, which were not peculiar to Canada, but which had happened to every other country in the world, Canada began to move forward; she began to be a great producer of food, and she began to be a very considerable exporter of many things. She again began to import, with the result that the imports of Canada were now three times what they were in 1897. When Canada began to show this remarkable expansion in her trade, every other country began to share in that expansion, and this showed that the granting of preference coincided with what they might call a turning point in the industrial and commercial history of Canada. It would be found that in the year 1897 the total imports of Canada were 111,000,000 dols. Preference was granted—12½ per cent., in the following year 25 per cent., and in 1900 33⅓ per cent., and by the time 1900 had arrived the imports of Canada had nearly doubled. In that period our import trade with Canada had risen from 29,000,000 dols. to 45,000,000 dols, and that of America to 109,000,000 dols. The increase in the case of America was much greater than in the case of this country. Since 1897 British imports into Canada had increased 137 per cent., while those from America had increased 167 per cent. While it was true that preference must have had some share in this increase from America, yet the advantages of that country's geographical position, and other advantages, were greater than those conferred by the preference given to it, and the trade of America had gone ahead more rapidly than our trade with Canada. That was not a thing which the House should repine at, for Canada was the gainer. So much for the hard facts of the hard side of the case, which he regretted to have to argue at all. It was not his fault; it was that of hon. Members opposite. But there was another side to it. He was one of those who would be quite ready to sacrifice something of material gain to this country if they could do something to cement the relations of the Empire and make it a greater instrument for good in the world than it was now. But happily it was not necessary to offer a preference to the Colonies. Mr. Fisher, the Canadian Minister of Agriculture, said on the 25th January last—

> "We farmers of Canada want no preference in the English market. Why is it that the farmers want no preference? England, in existing conditions, takes and absorbs everything in food products that we can send. If I were an elector in England, I would be a Liberal free trader, and all Liberal free traders there have my sympathy and my belief in the right of their cause. . . . Canada is neither disappointed nor discontented with the decision of England."

He thought the farmers of Canada would re-echo those not ignoble words, which should have weight in the House. He thought that if he and others had been able to show that, judged on business principles, the policy of preference fell to the ground, it fell to the ground no less on considerations of patriotism and of their duty as citizens of the British Empire.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow) said it seemed to him very unfortunate that something had prevented them from having a straightforward Amendment on the whole fiscal question. It seemed to him that the question of fiscal reform was going to be muddled for the second year running. The House would remember that on the hon. Baronet's Motion with regard to free trade last year the Opposition Whip asked the tariff reformers to allow the House to be adjourned on the understanding that they should be permitted to speak next day on the Amendment of the Member for Sheffield. But when the Amendment came to be considered it was found that it was so worded that it was impracticable to talk about free trade or protection at all. He dared say that hon. Members would recollect that Mr. Speaker was obliged to request five or six hon. Gentlemen to resume their seats. The hon. Member for Leicester, who had spoken earlier in the evening, was rather inclined to tell them that preference was of no use. In his county there was one firm which got a contract for £25,000 or £30,000 entirely through the existence of preference, which came to £3,000. This contract kept in regular employment 500 men for two years.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): May I ask the hon. Gentleman what industry it was?

MR. HUNT: It was an industry carried on close to the town of Wellington. He could not tell what the industry was, because it had gone out of his head for the moment. The hon. Member for Leicester had referred to the feeling of the colonies upon the question of safeguarding their industries, but it should not be forgotten that all nations believed that an exchange of products benefited both buyer and seller, and there was a great difference between a home and a foreign market. He agreed with President Lincoln that if America went in for free imports they would have to buy their manufactured goods and the foreigners would get their money, but if they went in for safeguarding their own working men they would get the goods and the money too.

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich): If they have the goods and the money too, then they must swindle somebody.

MR. HUNT said he did not think the hon. Member for Woolwich had made a very sensible observation. There were two different people, one a buyer and the other a seller, and they both got an advantage. Did the hon. Member see the point now? Perhaps he would now say where the swindle came in. [AN HON. MEMBER: Apologise, Crooks.] Let them take as another instance a case in which one German bought from another German in Germany, and both buyer and seller were Germans. In that case home commerce doubly profited. In that way foreign countries developed their industries and kept down the wages of British working men. [MINISTERIAL laughter]. Hon. Members opposite laughed at his argument, but that was the argument of the great manufacturing millionaire, Mr. Carnegie. A man born in his division who emigrated early to Canada, had told him that he was in Canada at the time the Canadians sent a deputation to Washington to ask the Americans to give them preferential trading, but the Americans would have nothing to do with it. But directly after the right hon. Member for West Birmingham loosed his thunderbolt which set the continents talking, the leaders of commerce in America met together, and said—"This is a serious thing; we must as soon as possible offer Canada the best terms of trade we can give; otherwise the patriotism of Mr. Chamberlain will bind Canada to the British Empire for ever." The American Press were most emphatic in telling the American people that if the right hon. Gentleman's scheme came off it would be a terrible blow to American trade and a most excellent thing for British trade. A friend of his who had travelled in the Colonies representing a Birmingham hardware firm had told him that wherever he went he was followed by a foreigner who was ready to offer the same goods five or ten per cent. cheaper. America made no bones whatever about this matter. The Americans practically said—"Of course, we are going to take all your trade from your Colonies. We are getting such good prices in our home market that practically any of the surplus goods we sell are profit or nearly all profit." This bore out what Mr. Carnegie told the students of St. Andrew's in 1902 in regard to American competition, when he said that the nation with the largest and most profitable home market was bound to win in the competition for the trade of the world. In regard to agricultural machinery Mr. Carnegie pointed out that America had a large and profitable market, while Britain had only a small market, and that therefore, the American manufacturer was bound to win in competition. Mr. Carnegie was a most violent opponent of the scheme of the hon. Member for West Birmingham, but it was very difficult to get Liberal gentlemen who were free traders to take any notice even of what those on their own side said. His brother who had been in America for some years wrote to him a few weeks ago stating that he never met an Englishman who did not say that unless we in this country adopted some form of protection we were bound to go to the wall, and that Americans simply laughed at us for being such fools. Americans said that they could remember the years when they tried a so-called free trade system, and they had told his brother how hard it was for working men to get any job at all, and that soup kitchens had to be started in all the towns to keep the people from starving. If we did not take our opportunity now, we might lose it for ever. Already our Colonies were making trade treaties among themselves; surely we were not going to be left out of the trade of the British Empire. We must be able to see what the Colonies had told us, that unless we made treaties with them they would be compelled to enter into arrangements with other nations. Then we should be rubbed out of our Colonial market just as we were rubbed out of the markets of foreign protected nations. In 1894 the present Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that English trade was being carried on under great and increasing difficulties, and that the wall of tariffs which excluded us from foreign markets was every day getting higher. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary of State for India, speaking at Manchester in October, 1903, stated that it was a matter of life and death to us to persuade foreign nations to rally round the free trade flag and to come round to the open door. It had all gone the other way since these two right hon. Gentlemen spoke. Was the country for the sake of the sixty-year old policy of a dead man going to give up the chance of becoming a great Empire? They would have to decide during the next few years whether they were going to be mice or men. Might he point out a few of the reasons why the policy of colonial preference failed at the last election? The Liberals wanted to get the Chinese out of Africa; the Labour Leaders wanted to get their feet firmly planted in the House of Commons, and of course they could not do it without the assistance of the Liberals; but the heaviest drag on the wheel—the man who more than any one else held back the policy—was the right hon. Gentleman whose personal charm and great intellectual gifts and great power of debate were acknowledged on all sides of the House. [Cries of "Name."] The Leader of the Opposition had come in just in time to hear what he had to say. Before the last general election the right hon. Gentleman declined to put forward any policy which any ordinary person could understand, or which could appeal to the Imperial instincts of the British people. The consequence was that they had a good many of the constituencies full of wonder, and they could never give a straight answer to a straight question. Hence the right hon. Gentleman caused the great defeat of the Unionist Party. When the election was over the right hon. Gentleman was squeezed by the tariff reformers; and taking, as he thought the right hon. Gentleman generally did, the line of least resistance on this question, they got their valentine; and he confessed that for a short time he thought that things were going all right. But for about a year the right hon. Gentleman never said one word about colonial preference. Then when he did say something at Hull, he gave the tariff reformers something to cheer over, and, as usual, took it back with the other hand. On these questions it appeared to be always the same. The right hon. Gentleman, he supposed—

> Thought of the great free traders,
> And thought of Cousin Hugh,
> And so do all the wobblers,
> Who begin to wobble too.

The great London papers mostly came over to the side of the right hon. Gentleman, but there were two very ominous exceptions. One was the *Spectator*, which claimed the right hon. Gentleman as a free trader, and said he was all right now, but that he should be watched to see that the tariff reformers did not tilt him over the fence. The other was Mr. *Punch*, who exactly represented the opinion of the right hon. Gentleman. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had what the old Romans called *vis inertiæ*. He was fond of standing still and doing nothing. The right hon. Gentleman's position was very strong in the House of Commons, and, as he was strong, he hoped he would be merciful to the trait reformers, who after all were the great majority on his side of the House. There was no doubt that the right hon. Gentlemen on the Front Opposition Bench were all tied by the time-honoured British principles of honour and loyalty, and they were afraid of the frown of the right hon. Gentleman, the first whipper-in. He was only saying in the House of Commons what nine people out of ten were saying in the country. Whether they were Liberal Unionists, or old fashioned Tories, old or young, rich or poor, men or women, they declared—"We must have a leader who knows his own mind, who will say what he thinks, and give us a lead in Imperial policy, and in the policy of social reforms." They would not follow a leader who had not a definite policy, and whom they could not understand. If colonial preference was to win at the next election, its advantages and necessity would have to be advocated and explained inside and outside the House. There must be a lead from their leader, pious opinions were no use. There were only two remedies for curing the poverty and wretchedness of the poor of the country—tariff reform or colonial preference, and socialism. He entreated their leader to come down from the Olympian heights of philosophy and golf. Let him remember the misery arising from want of employment in this dear old country of ours. As the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil had said, misery was caused from a want of well-paid employment. Let the right hon. Gentleman lead his Party to victory in the only possible way. He supposed that in expressing his views as he had done he had got himself into frightful hot water on his own side of the House, and probably on the other side also. He begged to thank the House for being so kind as to listen to what a poor countryman had to say, although he could not expect that the right hon. "first whipper-in" would be satisfied.

MR. BONAR LAW (Camberwell, Dulwich) said that in speeches delivered during the debate some points had been emphasised which did not form essential parts of the question raised by the Amendment. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean, for instance, had spent much time in pointing out the difficulties of colonial preference, but he agreed with the hon. Member for Leicester in saying that the first point was not whether it was difficult or easy, but whether the policy was worth our while; the difficulties came for after-consideration. Of course, nobody contended that there were no difficulties. Great, indeed, would be the difficulties if they were approached in the spirit of the right hon. Gentleman, who had pointed out that preference could not be given on tea, as nine-tenths of it came from India, nor on Australian wines, as the quantity imported here was so very small. The right hon. Gentleman had incidentally spent many minutes in defending the consistency of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies as displayed in a speech on colonial preference. He had read that speech with a good deal of surprise; for, apart from economic considerations which made it incompatible with free trade as understood, for instance, by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, there was something else in it that needed explanation. The Under-Secretary said he had complete sympathy with any attempt to secure closer trade relations between the different parts of the Empire. But at the general election, in the hon. Gentleman's mouth and in the mouth of everybody on the Ministerial side of the House, these bonds were sordid bonds and bonds to be avoided. Circumstances evidently altered cases. Bonds which were sordid for the parent became very desirable for the children, just as a system of indentured labour applied to grown-up men in South Africa was slavery, while another system of indentured labour, far worse in its details, which applied to women and children in the New Hebrides was a great improvement on the existing situation. Most of the hon. Gentlemen who had spoken from the Government benches had tried to make out that the whole question was one of the imposition of a corn duty. It was nothing of the kind. The Amendment committed them simply to the principle of colonial preference, and he advised those who imagined that that in itself was not a great deal, to recall the words of the Colonial Prime Ministers, who had asked that the Mother Country should extend to them a preference on existing duties or on any duties she might afterwards impose. He did not say that it might not be desirable that a duty should be placed on corn. More than that, they could not in principle object to it, because they once imposed it for the sake of revenue. Nor could the Party opposite object to it, because it was kept on by them for more than ten years after a complete system of free trade had been adopted. The question of the imposition of a corn duty really depended on what they would get in return for it. When it was argued from the Opposition benches that it was possible that a small corn duty would partly be paid by the farmer there was a smile on the faces of hon. Gentlemen opposite. Did they think that by necessity every import duty must be paid by the consumer? [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] Then why had they smiled? There was no economist, living or dead, who had ever made such a statement. Let them assume if they liked that such a duty would be a bad thing for the country. But could any one doubt, in face of the statement of the Chancellor of the Exchequer yesterday in reply to a question, that £50,000,000 sterling of indirect taxation were already raised by food and drink—a system, by the way, which taxed a man not in proportion to his capacity to pay, but in proportion to his capacity to eat and drink—that it would be possible so to adjust that indirect burden as not to inflict it upon the poor? The question of Colonial preference had been put before the country by hon. Gentlemen opposite in this light: "Why should we impose a burden upon ourselves for the sake of imaginary political benefits and for the advantage of colonists who individually are better off than our own people?" No statement could be further from the truth. If he were perfectly certain that the effect of this arrangement would be to add to the national strength, and also to do material good to the country in the future, even then he would not support it if he believed its immediate effect would be to add to the burdens of the poor of this country. So long as under our beautiful fiscal system one-third of our population, as they were told, was on the verge of hunger, it was obvious that that proportion at least of the people could not afford to pay any premium of insurance, however small, for the future. He would look at the question entirely from the point of view of what we could gain materially by it. What we chiefly needed was an outlet abroad for our manufactured goods which gave employment to the labour of our people at home. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had made innumerable speeches in the country in which he had pointed out that the distinction between raw materials and manufactured articles was idle. In one speech he argued that coal should be regarded as a manufactured article because it took so much labour; if that were true, it applied also to wheat, which in proportion took more labour. The right hon. Gentleman had also pointed out that what was the raw material of one trade became the manufactured article of another. That might be a plausible theory had we no experience to guide us, but every industrial country in the world and all our Colonies had made the distinction, and it worked smoothly in practice and without complaint. The real answer to all these subtleties was that given to similar refinements by Burke. Using a fine image Burke said—

> "No man can tell the exact moment when the daylight fades into darkness, but the difference between night and day is fairly distinct."

The theory which formed the staple of the right hon. Gentleman's speeches was, "Take care of your imports and your exports will take care of themselves." That was a perfect theory if it would only work; too perfect, indeed, for our imperfect world. It really meant that there was no trade problem at all, that we need not worry about technical education, that all we had to do was to sit on our office stools and buy freely and nature would do the rest: they put a penny in the slot and the machine worked. He thought they had got beyond that stage, although he was not sure that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, for he moved slowly. But his Government had, or they would not introduce the Patents Bill, whose effect would be to make foreigners who took patents in this country manufacture the goods here. Why compel them to do so if, according to the right hon. Gentleman's argument, when they manufactured such goods abroad, we could buy and pay for them with something else made by us which would suit us better? According to the right hon. Gentleman's argument the Government would do positive injury to the people of this country by such a Bill. ["No."] He was glad to see, then, that that particular kind of nonsense was abandoned by the Government. Where was the foreign market to be obtained which we needed for our manufactured goods? During the last twenty-five years our exports of manufactured goods to the great industrial countries of the world had actually been growing less rather than greater, and last year the tariffs, which were already very high, were still further raised against us. In normal times, therefore, we could not look for an increase in our exports of goods to countries who deliberately tried to exclude our manufactures and to buy from us only raw materials. Then where were we to find a market for our manufactures? It was a fact that we were not holding our own as regards manufactures in the neutral markets of the world. The Board of Trade return issued by the present Government last year showed that both in South America and in China the exports of the United States and Germany were increasing not only at a more rapid rate than our own, but had increased in actual volume more than the exports of the United Kingdom. The most important market at the present moment was the market within the Empire. The Member for North Paddington, who had given the House a lot of statistics, agreed with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, but the hon. Member made no distinction between manufactured goods and other exports. The Board of Trade returns for the last year for which we had details showed that of our total exports of manufactured goods over 40 per cent., or nearly one-half, went to countries within the British Empire. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh," and "India?"] Was not India within the British Empire? Although India took nearly one-third of our manufactured exports, our exports to India had not been increasing—it was only to our self-governing Colonies that our exports showed any increase.

The Board of Trade official document said—

> "It appears from these tables that our exports of manufactures to British possessions consist of more finished goods than to foreign countries, and that the rate of increase of most-finished goods to British possessions has not only been much greater than those of other classes of goods to those places, but much greater than that of finished goods to foreign countries."

Anyone who would take the trouble to look at these tables in the fiscal Blue-book would agree with him that, from the point of view of labour employed, more than one-half of our exports of manufactured goods went to countries within the British Empire. During the last twenty-five years there had been practically no increase in the export of manufactured goods to foreign countries, including those great and undeveloped markets. The increase had been solely with our own Possessions. Not only was that market important now, but we had to look at what it would become. He appealed to the Labour Members, who although they were against him on this question were able to approach it with an open mind, to consider this matter. Let them take Canada alone. It was stated by Sir W. Laurier some time ago that what the nineteenth century had meant for the United States the twentieth century would mean for Canada. If we were sensible business men, conducting our business on business lines, should we not try to keep that market which was now the most important and which was going to be so much more important in the future? How was that market going to be kept without a preference? Hon. Gentleman knew in their hearts that it was difficult for us to compete against foreign countries in manufactured goods, even in our own home markets; how could we hope to compete successfully in markets where we had no advantages such as we possessed at home? We knew from experience what a preference meant to this country. It was ten years since Canada gave us preference. Up to that time our exports to Canada had been steadily falling, while those of foreign competitors had increased; but since that time they had been steadily increasing, a circumstance which the hon. Member for North Paddington had not mentioned. The moment preference was granted our trade with Canada jumped up by leaps and bounds until now it was a great deal more than it was at the time the preference was granted. He knew that in spite of this increase a distinguished Member sitting opposite had stated that preference was really of no practical benefit to the people of this country. He put it to any business man in the House. The Canadian preference meant for us something like 10 per cent. on foreign goods; if it was possible to compete without a preference, obviously we could compete better with an advantage of 10 per cent. He would put it in an elementary way; he said "elementary" because he wanted to convince distinguished right hon. Gentlemen of high intellect on the other side. Locomotives some eighteen months ago were being exported to Canada. Their value was about £4,000 here at home. Preference meant that on each locomotive we had to pay £518 less duty than any foreign country. If we quoted for a locomotive £4,500 and any other country quoted £4,000 we got the order, and not the other country. He had said before and he would say again, that if there were a larger proportion of business men in our Government he was perfectly certain that the kind of argument they heard would not, and could not, be used. Now he came to the point raised by the hon. Member for Leicester, which was also largely dealt with by the Chancellor of the Exchequer. The Chancellor of the Exchequer put the case in this way. He said, "The Colonies mean to be Protectionist, and therefore will not give us an effective entrance into their markets." The same argument was used by the hon. Member for Leicester, who put it with great force. It had been stated, and the hon. Member had referred to it, that the Member for West Birmingham had stated it as part of his plan that the Colonies should cease to develop their manufactures. He heard the right hon. Gentleman's speech in Glasgow, and he certainly said without any hesitation that he did not derive any such meaning from it. In any case the right hon. Gentleman had denied that he meant it, and nobody did mean it, nor could mean it for a moment. We all knew that the Colonies did mean to develop their own manufactures, and, speaking only for himself, he was not sure that if he had the power he would prevent them from so doing. If we were to treat the whole Empire as one, our desire should be to develop as rapidly as possible the manufactures of the Colonies, and if they were going to be developed most rapidly under the present system, then it was to our interest as well as theirs that they should be developed in that way. There was no hope of the Colonies stopping their development to take our manufactures; and all tariff reformers hoped was that the Colonies, when they had to buy from abroad, as they inevitably would, would as far as possible buy from us. The hon. Member and also the Chancellor of the Exchequer had spoken as if what the Colonies could buy in that way was very small. But did they not remember their own arguments? Countries like Canada must be great exporting countries; goods must be bought with goods—they must be exchanged for what was exported. Would it not be well worth our while now, if we could secure the trade for that growing quantity of things which they must buy from abroad, to ensure that they would buy them from us? We were on the eve of the meeting of a Colonial Conference. Every one now knew that this question of preferential trading had not been brought forward by the right hon. Member for West Birmingham. It had been brought forward by the Prime Ministers of the different Colonies, and had been persistently pressed by them ever since. In 1897 the only substantive resolution adopted was that the question of preferential trade should be considered; and in the Conference of 1902, a great many other subjects were discussed—projects such as the Secretary for War in other days dwelt on—other modes of getting closer union within the Empire. The Prime Ministers passed a resolution that for the present at least nothing could be done in that year; and the only substantive result of their meeting was that they undertook, as far as possible, to give preference to British manufacturers in their markets, while urging us to give a corresponding preference to their manufactures in our markets. That was the position. The Prime Ministers of the Colonies were coming again. What would they find? They would find that the Party opposite, the dominant Party in this country, had absolutely pledged itself, for no reason that he could see, to refuse even to consider this question. But there was another Party. The Unionists were not very numerous in that House, but even in the last election, judging by the total number of votes polled, they represented very nearly half the nation. These Prime Ministers would come and they would find that fact, and they could say, "The present Government is against us, but those who succeed them in office will be in our favour. We can afford to wait." On the other hand, if the Prime Ministers had to go back saying that one Party was absolutely hostile and the other Party was not really in favour of preference, then they would have to say, "This has been our ideal; we have believed in it; we believe in it still, and if the Mother Country will not have it we must look elsewhere." He spoke seriously when he said that this ought not to be a Party question, but ought to be looked at from a broad point of view. The House must, therefore, look at the question seriously, and must seriously regard the result in regard to Canada. He did not believe that there was a thoughtful Canadian who did not realise that, as the hon. Member for Paddington had pointed out, the natural trade destiny of Canada was to have closer relations and close commercial treaties with the United States. He did not think there was a single Canadian who did not know that to increase the Dominion's development most rapidly, the best thing was to have a close commercial treaty with the United States. A few years ago the Canadians were keen for such a treaty; the Americans would not have it. The position now was entirely changed. The United States were keen for such a treaty; the Canadians held off on the ground of sentiment alone. He knew Canada pretty well, and he did not mean to put the Imperial idea above what it was worth. Canadian sentiment was not entirely towards the Mother Country or the Empire; the sentiment was partly Canadian; but it was a sentimental ground, and this accounted for the fact that they refused at present to have a reciprocity treaty. If the Prime Minister of Canada returned home and said, "We have no hope of any preferential arrangement with the Empire as a whole," it was inevitable that the material interests would predominate and that Canada would sooner or later arrange a commercial treaty with the United States. They had already arranged a tariff which made it specially easy for them to make such a treaty, and if those close relations between Canada and the United States were once begun was it not morally certain that they would grow more and more complete in every direction, and that on trade grounds alone, apart from other considerations, it would be found that Canada would be of no more value to this country, as a market in proportion to her population, than the United States now were to us in proportion to their population?

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): The hon. Gentleman has recalled us to the fact that a serious issue is before the House of Commons; and I think we shall all agree that, in view of the Amendment which has been placed upon the Paper, the speech which the hon. Gentleman has delivered is of especial significance and importance. What was the character of that speech? I will not attempt to make any comment upon its excellence, or the close reasoning that characterised it. But I say that it was from beginning to end a frankly protectionist speech. Let the House contrast for one moment the arguments to which we have just listened—the strong, vigorous, full-blooded protectionist arguments—with the preference by hypodermic syringe advocated by the mover and seconder of the Amendment. If the hon. Gentleman's contentions were true, we should, indeed, be in a very difficult position. According to him, we are oppressed from day to day with the great difficulty of finding an outlet for our trade. I assert there is no difficulty in placing the exports of this country—["Oh"]—that is not experienced in a greater degree by every other country in Europe. And the proof of that statement is surely to be found in the fact that per head of the population—and, after all, the productivity of a single pair of human hands must be the test—the exports of this country are twice as great as the exports from France, and three times as great as those from Germany or the United States; and even in the present year this country, which according to the hon. Gentleman is oppressed on every side with the difficulty of placing its exports, has succeeded in increasing its exports by something like £46,000,000.

I do not desire to argue the long protectionist controversy in which the hon. Gentleman is so well fitted to take a part. I wish to say a few words on the Amendment which has been moved, and which constitutes a direct vote of censure on the Government. There are two parts in that Amendment of very unequal importance. The first is the complaint against us for not having mentioned in the gracious Speech from the Throne that there would be a Colonial Conference this year. That point was raised by the Leader of the Opposition when the House reassembled, and in reply my right hon. friend the Prime Minister said, with meekness but explicitly, that on the two last occasions on which there had been a Colonial Conference no mention had been made of it, under Imperialist Governments, in the Speech from the Throne. One would have thought that such an answer was tolerably conclusive and that some new line of attack would have been adopted; and it is still more remarkable that we should be blamed for not having mentioned the Conference this year in the King's Speech when we reflect that on the previous occasions the Conference was an extraordinary institution, just coming into being, a new, far-reaching unmeasured departure. But it is not so now. Now it is a regular, permanent, and, I trust, will become a continually more intimate part of our constitutional machinery; and if the King's Speech is to mention not only what is new and original, but all that is regular, formal, and recurrent in the business of the year, then the Speech will attain dimensions which will be exceedingly inconvenient. But, after all, the *gravamen* of the charge is not a matter of form. If I understand the charge made against the Government in regard to the King's Speech, it is the suggestion that we have not taken the Colonial

Conference seriously and tried our best to do full justice to that most grave and important constitutional function. I submit that such a suggestion is wholly unmerited. We have approached the question of the Colonial Conference in a different spirit, I think, from that in which it might have been approached by those who sit opposite. It is not a plank in our platform. We do not wish to make Party capital out of it. We only want to use it in an earnest, sober spirit, to improve the good relations between Great Britain and her Colonies, and to settle some serious, practical questions which we think are ripe for settlement at the present time. All the arrangements for the Conference have been the subject of the most careful thought, not only upon the political side, but also upon the social side. When I lay on the Table of the House in the present week the agenda paper, and the despatch relating to the subjects which will be discussed at that Conference, they will, I think, convince hon. Gentlemen, whatever side they may sit upon, that the charge which is made against us of treating the Colonial Conference with disrespect or with levity is not sustained by any reasonable or fair-minded study of the actual facts.

But, Sir, I really do not suggest for a moment that the Opposition, the Official Opposition, the Conservative Party, would have attached so much importance to this wretched quibble about whether the Conference was mentioned in the King's Speech or not if it had stood by itself. They wanted it for another purpose. They wanted the unimportant part of the Amendment as a peg on which to hang the more important part which was to follow. The resolution increases in importance as it proceeds, and I must draw the attention of some of those who sit on the benches opposite to some aspects of its importance. There was a time, not very long ago, when I used to follow, with the very closest attention, the speeches of the Leader of the Opposition. I think I have read, or heard, almost every speech he has made in the last four or five years, and they were very important speeches, because, as the House will remember, we are always assured, on the authority of the daily papers, that every utterance which the right hon. Gentleman makes is an epoch-making utterance. And there have been so many epochs made by him in the last two or three years that it has been almost bewildering to the plain man who would keep up to date. But there has been this about the right hon. Gentleman's utterances, and it was noticed by the hon. Gentleman the Member for Shropshire in his illuminating speech, that one epoch-making utterance was singularly like the other, and that the resulting product of different speeches, in which very different expressions and very different arguments were apparently used, was almost exactly the same. I was reminded, in studying those speeches, of the words in the Bible, "Tabitha, which is, by interpretation, Dorcas"—a statement which, although complete, conclusive, and authoritative, does not add very much to one's information. And I largely sympathise with the hon. Member for Shropshire in the severe complaint he just addressed to his leader—I suppose he is his leader—on the subject. But I am ready to admit that there were some statements for which the right hon. Gentleman made himself responsible which constitute a distinct advance upon the position which, in the earlier days of this controversy, he assumed. There was the valentine letter. That was a distinct advance; but this Amendment is a further advance upon the valentine letter. Let me read to the House what the right hon. Gentleman said in the valentine letter—

> "I hold that fiscal reform is, and must remain, the first constructive work of the Unionist Party. The objects of such reform are to secure more equal terms of competition for British trade and closer commercial union with the Colonies."

Yes, Sir, but this Amendment goes a step further—

> "For promoting freer trade within the Empire and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis."

I ask the House to mark those words—"on a preferential basis." We have to consider them in relation to the character of the mover of the Amendment—not the personal character of the hon. Gentleman, but his political character. He belongs to the most militant section of the tariff reform party, a section of which there are no fewer than two in this House who have succeeded in displacing Unionist free traders from their seats. And we must also consider the significance of the Amendment in relation to all those mysterious meetings of which we have heard so much, about which we know so little, but concerning which such curious information has been imparted from time to time to the columns of *The Times* newspaper. But I say—and I was very glad to hear it frankly admitted by the hon. Gentleman—that the Amendment which has been placed on the Paper affirms, in the most distinct and precise manner, the principle of Colonial preference. Now what does that mean? Sir, it does not mean tinkering with existing Customs duties. I challenge the hon. Gentleman who has just spoken to rise in his place and say that all he means by Imperial preference is a mere differentiation of the duties on cocoa, wine, tobacco, and dried fruits. It does not mean merely welcoming the preferences which the Colonies have freely, and without request for a return, accorded to us in the last few years. It does not mean that we should welcome them and do nothing in return. Nor does it mean that we should simply fold our arms and allow the process of reciprocal treaties to proceed between the different protectionist Colonies, which, after all, is a very small matter, which only involves in tariff States mere revisions of the existing schedules, and which constitute steady approximations to free trade and to a reduction of duties. It does not mean that. It means—and I am sure the hon. Gentleman is much too candid and courageous an opponent to deny it—that we should bind ourselves, if we accepted the Motion which is put forward, to erect a tariff wall around this country.

MR. BONAR LAW: It does not mean anything of the kind. I distinctly stated that it did not mean anything of the kind. I should be perfectly satisfied—and I think I am as extreme as most men—if the Government would undertake to use even the existing taxes as a first beginning. [Ministerial cries of "As a beginning."]

*MR. CHURCHILL: The hon. Gentleman says he would be content if we would use the existing taxes as a first beginning of this tariff wall which is to be erected round the country and differentiate in favour of the Colonies. Yes, but we are not dealing only with first beginnings. We are dealing with the principle of a great change in our fiscal policy, and I say that it is not possible to give a preference to the Colonies unless you erect duties round this country which do not at present exist. And what sort of duties? Why, it is not so long since I heard in this House the right hon. Member for West Birmingham on a memorable afternoon use that oft quoted sentence—

> "If you would give a preference to the Colonies you must put a tax on food."

Yes, Sir, the principle which is affirmed by this Amendment, if it is to mean anything but mere opportunities for political partisanship, if it is to mean anything but a mere academic assertion in support of which no real effort is to be made, is that those who vote for it are prepared, if they are given the power, to impose duties differentiating in favour of the Colonies upon bread and meat and dairy produce. [Opposition cries of "No."] It is no use saying "No." The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham is not here, and we are all very sorry for it. If he were here he would not allow his followers to say "No." I congratulate the Opposition upon the determination at which they have arrived. They have taken a long time making up their minds, but this is the first formal, definite, public assertion which they have made of their adhesion to the principle of preference involving the taxation of food. [Opposition cries of "No."] I am bound to say I do not think they will suffer in the country so much as some of them suppose they will. They may not win many votes by their declaration, but they will win what no doubt they value more than votes, the respect which is always accorded to honourable, but misguided, opponents. We also will make a clear declaration. We will not be behind them in expressing our opinion upon the issues which they have raised. We have not forced this discussion upon the House. We were anxious not to dwell unduly upon this question on the eve of this important Colonial Conference. But since we are challenged we are bound to state our view, at whatever cost, or whatever disappointment may result therefrom. We do not enter the Conference with an open mind upon this subject. Nor do the Colonial Premiers. They have their instructions, as my hon. friend who has just returned from Australia showed in his masterly speech this afternoon, and as the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean has also shown. They have their functions defined within precise and definite limits. We, too, have our instructions regarding the principles we are expected to formulate and put forward, and, be sure of it, we shall not fail to do so. Let me say I do not imagine that that is going to cause any ill-feeling, or any set-back or re-action in what is, I think, the rising tide of good will between Great Britain and her Colonies. I have read with care the speeches and statements which have been made by Colonial Ministers. I will only quote to the House what Mr. Fielding has said. Mr. Fielding said—

> "It is a question for you, for the people of Great Britain. We adopted preference because we believed it was a good thing for Canada. When your people see fit to adopt it as a good thing for Great Britain we shall be pleased. If it does not suit you to adopt it from the standpoint of your own interests we have no objection to make."

In the few minutes that yet remain I cannot allow this opportunity to pass of once again paying tribute, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, and on behalf of the Liberal Party, to the scrupulously correct attitude maintained throughout this long-drawn controversy by Colonial Statesmen. I have no time to enter upon an elaborate economic discussion; and I am sure the House would not wish me to do so. I will therefore leave altogether the economic argument, and say that we on this side of the House are opposed to Colonial preference on political grounds as well as on economic grounds. It is arguable that even though preference might cost us money, yet it would be worth while for us to adopt it for the purpose of welding the British Empire more closely together. We do not impeach the motives of hon. Gentlemen opposite. We recognise that the objects they seek are worthy and lofty objects; but we believe the methods they adopt, even if they resulted as they think they would result, would not weld the British Empire together, but would only introduce perpetual sources of injury and friction. It is impossible to frame an equitable system of Colonial preference. The complexities which arise from dividing raw materials from other articles, the absence of any logical reason for giving a preference to articles not specified as raw materials, and refusing a preference to articles so specified, and the special geographical circumstances of each particular Colony, make the formation of a symmetrical and uniform system of preference absolutely impossible. And in the bargaining which must attend such a process, the haggling which the Leader of the Opposition rightly deprecated on Friday last—in the bargaining which must arise, ill will, and not good will, will be engendered. I am one of those who think that it is the function of both Parties in the State to steer Colonial affairs out of the arena of English Party politics. They can do no good to the Parties who handle them. They can only injure the relations which prevail between this country and the great Colonies when they are so handled. But the process which you now ask us to set up of differential duties will bring Colonial affairs into every election, and into the centre of the most unpleasant parts of our financial discussions whenever the Budget is before a Committee of this House. Every year Motions will be made to remove these taxes on food and other commodities on which a preference has been given, and the advocates of those Motions will be forced to dwell—in just that spirit of haggling which the right hon. Gentleman condemned—upon the value of the Colonial return; and upon the existing proportions of their contributions to naval and military defence. And what sort of taxes will these be? I stick to what the right hon. Member for West Birmingham has said, that if you would give a preference to the Colonies you must put a tax upon food. It has been said by an hon. Gentleman behind me that food taxation falls with increasing weight in proportion as the ladder of poverty is descended, and questions of bread and meat, which are of very little consequence to the majority of persons in this country, constitute for a minority the most serious and grinding questions which they have from day to day to meet, and absorb day by day and week by week nearly a half, if not three-quarters, of their whole worldly income. Now, what a basis on which to build the fabric of your Empire! What a strange basis on which to erect this stately monument which you fondly hope will last for ever! If you wished to choose the path which would bring against the great Colonies of the Empire a dangerous and a terrible antagonism on the part of the working classes in this country, you could not more surely indicate it than you do by this Amendment. There are many factors in the price of commodities—freights, harvests, the condition of the currency, political affairs in the different countries, the credit of the world—all these things influence the price of staple commodities. A tax is the one factor in price entirely in your own control. When you have the Empire joined together on the basis of this preference by duties on food, you may be confronted with a demand which no Government could resist to remove the tax which has been imposed. But the tax will be irremovable. At present we can do what we choose with the revenue and expenditure of the year; the House of Commons is supreme. But if in times of scarcity a demand were made for the removal or reduction of a food tax which is the subject of a preference, a Minister will have no power to accept the decision of the House. He will be bound to enforce that tax by treaty obligation entered into with the self-governing Colonies, on the basis of which advantages have been given to this country in manufactures and other respects, on the basis of which tier upon tier industries in this country and in those Colonies have steadily grown up. Then is the time when you will bring upon the British Empire the danger of a collision which every man who loves the British Empire should labour to prevent. Regarding the great controversy raised so recklessly, so unfortunately, and at so inconvenient a moment, from a Party point of view I am glad that hon. Gentlemen opposite have at last committed themselves definitely to the principle of preference. At any time or in any place, here on the floor of the House of Commons or in the tumult of a popular election, we are ready to meet you on the issue which has been raised, and we will endeavour to do what we are convinced we can succeed in doing, prove to the country that you are wrong all along the line—wrong in your logic, wrong in your statecraft, wrong in your arithmetic, wrong even in your demagogy—right only in having at last found the candour and courage to avow your true opinions and, by so doing, warn the public throughout the Empire of the catastrophe from which they have been preserved.

Motion made and Question, "That the Debate be now adjourned."—(*Mr. A. J. Balfour.*)—put, and agreed to.

Debate to be resumed to-morrow.

SHOPS BILL.

Order for Second Reading read, and discharged. Bill withrdawn.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That the Committee of Public Accounts do consist of fifteen members.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of; Mr. Ashton, Mr. Briggs, Mr. Victor Cavendish, Mr. Cameron Corbett, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Gill, Mr. Goddard, Mr. Hazleton, Mr. Holden, Mr. Leif Jones, Sir George Kekewich, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. M'Crae, Mr. Runciman, and Colonel Williams.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That five be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

ADJOURNMENT.

Motion made, and Question, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)—put, and agreed to.

Adjourned at one minute before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Wednesday, 20th February, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

METROPOLITAN WATER BOARD (VARIOUS POWERS) BILL (BY ORDER).

Read a Second Time, and committed.

PETITION.

AUDIT OF MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTS.

Petition from Liverpool, for legislation; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVAL WORKS ACTS, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1899, 1901, AND 1903.

Account presented, showing the amount of money issued out of the Consolidated Fund; the mode in which it was provided; the amount and nature of the securities created in respect thereof; the amount of the surplus of income above expenditure for the financial year ended 31st March, 1896, and the amount of money expended in pursuance of the Acts during the year ended the 31st March, 1906; together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 33.]

ARMY (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT).

Copy presented, of the Appropriation Account for 1905–6, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon, and upon the Store Accounts of the Army [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 34.]

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES).

Annual Accounts presented, for the year 1905–6, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 35.]

ARMY (ORDNANCE FACTORIES) (APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT).

Copy presented, of Appropriation Account of the sums granted by Parliament for the expense of the Ordnance Factories, the cost of the productions of which have been charged to the Army, Navy, and Indian and Colonial Governments, etc., and the Statement of the Surpluses and Deficits upon the Grants for the year ended 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 36].

ARMY (CLOTHING FACTORY).

Annual Accounts presented, of the Royal Army Clothing Factory for the year 1905–6, with Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 37.]

MILITARY WORKS ACTS, 1897, 1899, 1901, AND 1903.

Account presented, for the period ended 31st March, 1906, together with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 38.]

CHELSEA HOSPITAL (ARMY PRIZE MONEY AND LEGACY FUNDS).

Account presented, of the Receipts and Expenditure of the Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital (for services other than those voted by Parliament) in the year ended 31st March, 1906, with the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General thereon [by Act] to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 39.]

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION (METROPOLITAN BUILDING ESTATES, PUBLIC HOUSES).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 19th February; *Mr. Stuart-Wortley*]; to lie upon the Table.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904.

Copy presented, of Order made by the Council of the Urban District of Chadderton, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of shops within the urban district [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EAST INDIA (TRADE).

Copy presented, of Tables relating to the Trade of British India with British Possessions and Foreign Countries for the five years 1901–2 to 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

POSTAL AGREEMENT (HONDURAS).

Copy presented, of Agreement between the Post Office of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and the

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by a Member.

Post Office of the Republic of Honduras for the Exchange of Money Orders, dated 22th October (10th December), 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (NO. 6, 1907).

Copy presented, of Accession of Brazil to the Convention, signed at Geneva, 22nd August, 1864, for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the field, 26th January, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TREATY SERIES (NO. 7, 1907).

Copy presented, of Supplementary Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States for the mutual Extradition of Fugitive Criminals. Signed at London, 12th April, 1905. Ratifications exchanged at Washington, 21st December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LAND FORCES (GREAT BRITAIN AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

Address for "Return showing the total number of Officers and Men in the Land Forces of Great Britain and Ireland, France, Austria, Russia, and Germany (including Prussia), respectively, in each of the years 1792, 1800, 1805, 1810, 1815, 1840, 1854, 1870, 1880, 1900, and 1906:—

	1792.	1800.	1805.	1810.	1815.	1840.	1854.	1870.	1880.	1900.	1906.
British Troops:—											
At Home											
In Colonies											
In India											
Total British Troops ...											
Native Troops:—											
In Colonies											
In India											
Total Native Troops ...											
Total Active List ...											
Reserves											
Militia											
Yeomanry											
Volunteers											
Total Reserves											
Total British Land Forces											
France:—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											
Austria:—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											
Russia:—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											
Germany (including Prussia):—											
Active List											
Reserves											
Total											

—*Mr. Bowles.*

ANSWERS AND QUESTIONS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Reduction of the Militia.

LORD JOHN JOICEY-CECIL (Lincolnshire, Stamford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether it is intended to reduce the number of Militia battalions; and, if so, which battalions it is proposed to do away with.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Secretary of State intends to make a full statement on the subject next week in introducing the Army Estimates.

Slaughtering Cattle for British Troops in Egypt.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he has yet taken any steps to secure the adoption of a humane method of slaughtering the cattle required for the use of the British troops in Egypt.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The General Officer Commanding, Egypt, has made very careful inquiries into the matter, and reports that all cattle at Cairo and Alexandria are slaughtered at the Egyptian Government abattoirs and under the supervision of the Egyptian Government officials. They are slaughtered in accordance with Mahomedan practice, which alone prevails in Egypt. Unconsciousness is instantaneous and death ensues in a few seconds. The system of inspection is most careful and every effort is made to ensure the avoidance of cruelty.

Suggested Consumption Sanatorium for Discharged Soldiers.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): To ask the Secretary of State for War if soldiers suffering from tubercle of the lungs are discharged, and a notification is then sent to the medical officer of health of the town to which the patient is proceeding, asking that officer to keep the patient under supervision; and, if so, whether the Government will consider the advisability of providing a consumption sanatorium at which a soldier who is not altogether hopeless might be received and treated, the danger of infection thus being lessened, and a soldier given a much better chance of recovery on account of the professional treatment he would thus receive at such an institution compared to the facilities in an ordinary worker's home.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) A notification is sent, in accordance with the medical regulations, to the medical officer of health of the town in which the soldier discharged on account of tubercle of the lung intends to reside. This notice is sent in the public interest and is not intended to be a request to keep the man under supervision. The question of the provision of a sanatorium for soldiers invalided out of the service for consumption has been very fully considered and the scheme has been found impracticable.

Colonies and Army Tinned Meat Contracts.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether in the next contract for tinned meat for the British Army he will give the Colonies the first chance of supplying it, as there have been no complaints in respect to their methods of manufacture or packing, such as has been the case with foreign meat in the past.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) Tenders are invited and have been from time to time accepted from Colonial firms for tinned meat. In anticipation of an increased demand and our desire to widen the area of supply, we have despatched a special officer to Australia and New Zealand to examine the packing establishments of these Colonies, and report as to their methods of manufacture and their capacity for giving us a larger supply than they do at present.

Barrack Building Contracts—Messrs. Arundle and Fair Wages Clause.

MR. CLYNES (Manchester, N.E.): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware of complaints made that Messrs. Arundle, builders and contractors, Bradford, have not observed the rules and conditions of work and wages in the building trade in connection with military barracks work at Preston and Manchester; whether this firm undertook to conform to any established provisions regarding work and wages; and whether he will state the terms of the provisions which such Government contractors are asked to accept.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The contracts with Messrs. Arundle contain the usual fair wages clause. Special inquiries have been made with regard to the works at Preston and Manchester carried on by that firm, and it appears that the provisions of their contract have been duly observed by them.

Deaths of Militia Officers at Fleetwood Camp.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Report upon the deaths of militia officers at Fleetwood Camp from typhoid fever is ready yet.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The Report is complete. It is not proposed to circulate it as a Parliamentary Paper, but the Secretary of State will be glad to show it to my hon. friend.

Able-bodied Paupers and Tramps.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the estimated total number of able-bodied paupers and casuals in the United Kingdom in health, and sick or temporarily disabled, but excluding not able-bodied or infirm, on the 1st January, 1907.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am only concerned in this matter with England and Wales. So far as regards Scotland and Ireland the subject is one for the Secretary for Scotland and the Chief Secretary for Ireland. As regards England and Wales, the Returns of pauperism on 1st January last are now coming in, but I am not at present in a position to give any estimate of the kind desired. The latest particulars available are those contained in the Parliamentary Papers relating to Returns of Pauperism on 1st January, 1906, and 1st July, 1906, respectively (H.C. Paper 272, Session 1906, pp. 9 and 10, and H.C. Paper 272 (I), p. 7). Particulars for 1st January last similar to those in the Return for 1st January, 1906, will be published in due course.

Liability of Step-parents.

MR. JACKSON (Greenwich): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether, in view of a defect in the existing Poor Law by which the liability of a step-father to maintain his step-children ceases on the death of their mother, although such step-children may be under the age of sixteen years, he proposes to take such steps as may be necessary to amend the Law so that the step-father's liability may be assimilated to that relating to his own children.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am aware of the point referred to and will bring it under the notice of the Royal Commission on the Poor Laws and Relief of Distress, who will no doubt have before them the general question of the liability of persons to contribute to the maintenance of their relatives. I do not propose to deal with the matter by legislation at the present time.

Irish Evicted Tenants—Case of J. Walmsley, of Letterboy.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Estates Commissioners have received an application from Jabez Walmsley, Letterboy, Kesh, county Fermanagh, an evicted tenant on the Weir estate, for a holding; if so, have they made inquiry into his case; is the Weir estate at present being sold through the Land Commission; and have the Commissioners acquired, or are they about to acquire, any untenanted land on the Weir estate, or on any other estate in the neighbourhood of Kesh, that would be available for the provision of holdings for evicted tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have received an application from Jabez Walmsley for reinstatement in an evicted farm on the estate of W. S. Burnside, county Fermanagh, not the Weir estate. The Commissioners are having the application inquired into. No proceedings for the purchase of the Weir estate have been instituted by the Commissioners.

Relieving Officers' Charges for Conveyance of Lunatics.

MR. PIKE PEASE: To ask the President of the Local Government Board what was the total amount of relieving officers' charges for conveying lunatics or persons so certified to the asylums since 1896 to the end of the financial year 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Returns do not show separately the amount of this expenditure, and I am not in a position to give the information asked for.

Delay in Re-paving Piccadilly.

SIR F. DIXON - HARTLAND: (Middlesex, Uxbridge): To ask the President of the Local Government Board if he can give the reason for the delay in re-paving Piccadilly in front of the Piccadilly Hotel; whether the hotel authorities gave the local authority notice more than two months ago that they were ready for the work to be done, as all the scaffolding has been removed, and as the delay is causing great inconvenience to the traffic; and if he will do his best to get it carried out at once.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I have made inquiry on this subject, and am informed that the first communication from the architect of the Piccadilly Hotel asking the Westminster City Council to proceed with the new paving in front of the hotel was received on 17th January last. The engineer of the London County Council, who are concerned in the widening of Piccadilly, was communicated with on the same day, and on the 19th a letter was received from him stating that he had no objection to the work's being done. The preparation of the estimates was at once proceeded with, and they were submitted to the Improvements Committee of the City Council on 11th February and to the Finance Committee on the 15th. The reports of these committees will be laid before the City Council to-morrow, and there is every reason to anticipate that the City engineer will be authorised to proceed with the paving forthwith. I am also informed that no complaints as to inconvenience to traffic have been received. It is stated that the roadway is in no way interfered with, and that the hoarding only projects 18 inches over the existing public footway.

Spread of Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

SIR F. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has considered the continued and rapid spread of cerebro-spinal fever in many districts of the country, and the immense proportion of cases terminating in death; what steps he is taking, or proposes to take, to promptly arrest, if possible, the further spread of this disease; and whether he will consider the advisability of forthwith inviting medical experts to assist the Local Government Board in determining what immediate steps should be taken to check, and, if possible, stamp out this disease.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I am issuing a circular to the sanitary authorities relative to this disease, and am forwarding to them a memorandum on the subject which has been prepared by the medical officer of the Local Government Board. A Report has recently been made to me by Dr. M. H. Gordon on the micrococcus of epidemic cerebrospinal meningitis, with special reference to its identification in the upper respiratory passages. This Report is in the Press, and will be published in the course of a few days. If further medical investigation is found necessary in connection with this matter I shall not hesitate to take steps to procure it.

Imprisonment of Mr. A. Clarke, of Hounslow, for Non-payment of Rates.

DR. RUTHERFORD: To ask Mr. Attorney General whether his attention has been drawn to the case of imprisonment of A. Clarke, Hounslow, for non-payment of taxes in spite of the fact that Mr. Clarke had entered an appearance on the form provided for the purpose; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Sir Lawson Walton.*) The defendant, in this case, Mr. Clarke, did not choose to enter an appearance in accordance with the rules of the High Court, and consequently judgment was (quite regularly) signed against him. There appears to have been no defence whatever to the action. I do not see my way to take any action in the matter.

Memorial of Boy Clerks.

SIR G. KEKEWICH (Exeter): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the Treasury have considered the recent memorial of the boy clerks in the Civil Service, and whether they propose to give effect to the prayer of the memorial; and, if not, whether they will submit the questions put in the memorial, together with the general question of promotion between grades in the Civil Service, to the consideration of a Select Committee of this House.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) This memorial has been received from boy clerks in several of the public departments, and is now under consideration.

Compassionate Grants to Clerks to Surveyors of Taxes.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the number of clerks to surveyors of taxes who have received compassionate grants during the past ten years; will he state the highest grant given to any one clerk; and whether he will state how long such clerk served in the Taxes Department.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The system of granting gratuities on retirement to clerks to surveyors of taxes was only introduced in March, 1905. Since then gratuities have been granted to three clerks. The highest amount given to any one clerk was £78 in respect of a service of thirty-nine years.

Committee of Inquiry into Inland Revenue Department.

MR. SLOAN: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether the proposed Committee of Inquiry into the Inland Revenue Department has yet been appointed; and if such Committee will include in the scope of its inquiry the conditions of service of surveyors of taxes and their clerks.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) There is no intention of appointing any such Committee.

Retirement of Mr. C. McGanagall, Managing Clerk, Roorkee Workshops.

MR. MEEHAN (Queens' County, Leix): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that Mr. Charles McGanagall, managing clerk, Roorkee workshops, was prematurely and irregularly retired from the public service, that Mr. McGanagall was up to 1877, in permanent employment in the accounts branch of the Public Works Department and was transferred, in the interest of the Government as managing clerk in the Roorkee workshops on the understanding that the appointment was permanent and pensionable, like the one he was leaving, and under a special agreement that he should remain there to the end of his service, *i.e.*, to the age of at least fifty-five years; that, notwithstanding these conditions and the Civil Service Regulations regarding retirements, the post was abolished and Mr. McGanagall dismissed and placed on penion in 1897, when he was only forty-eight years of age and had still seven years service before him under the fifty-five year rule; that Mr. McGanagall's appeals against this treatment were ignored, that other employment was not given him, or any compensation allowed for the loss of his appointment, as had been recommended by the workshop superintendent, and that his pension of Rs.250, which he had earned under the rules, was withheld till 1898, when, owing to the circumstances of his retirement, it had to be specially sanctioned by the Secretary of State; and whether, seeing that, if Mr. McGanagall had been allowed to retire in the ordinary course, he would have received full-pay at Rs.500, instead of a half-pay pension of Rs.250, for the seven years in question, and that he has thus lost the sum of Rs.21,000, or with interest about Rs.25,000, by his premature and enforced retirement, the Government will now grant Mr. McGanagall some compensation in consideration of such loss.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) A memorial was submitted by Mr. McGanagall to Lord George Hamilton in 1898, praying for compensation on account of his enforced retirement, and after a careful consideration of the case his prayer was rejected. I do not see any sufficient reason for re-opening the question.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Vaccination of Dockyard Employees.

*MR. THOMASSON (Leicester): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he is aware that William J. Woodcock was employed in the boiler department of His Majesty's dockyard at Portsmouth from 18th January to 31st December 1906; that on the latter date he had to present himself for medical examination, and was informed that he would have to be vaccinated; that he objected to be vaccinated and was discharged in consequence of such objection; and whether, in view of the objects of The Vaccination Act, 1898, he proposes to take any action in the matter.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): Woodcock was employed temporarily at Portsmouth dockyard from the 17th to the 31st December last. On the 31st he was ordered to be medically examined with a view to more permanent employment, but as he declined to be re-vaccinated as required by Article 289 of the Home Dockyard Regulations, the dockyard officers had no alternative but to order his discharge.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Is there any intention of repealing the order?

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON asked for notice of the question.

Sailors' Savings.

SIR ROBERT ROPNER (Stockton): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the interest allowed to the men employed in the Navy who deposit money in the Naval savings banks on board His Majesty's ships has recently been reduced from 3¾ to 2½ per cent.; and, if so, how this can be justified in face of the fact that interest generally allowed is higher now than it has been for some years.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The rate of interest on new accounts has been reduced from 3¾ per cent. simple to 2½ per cent. compound, which has always been the rate paid in the shore banks in the dockyards and marine divisions. The reasons are the depreciation in the value of the securities held against deposits, and the reduction of the rate of interest on Consols from 2¾ to 2½ per cent. It would have been impossible to continue the higher rate without coming to Parliament for a Grant in Aid.

Naval Canteen System.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the Departmental Committee on the naval canteen system has concluded its deliberations; and, if so, whether any changes in that system are now contemplated by the Admiralty.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The report of the Committee has been received, and is now being considered.

Opium Cultivation.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the rate of duty levied on Malwa opium is still Rs.600 per chest; and whether, in view of the high average prices prevailing in Calcutta during the past three years, which are not less than Rs.1,400 a chest, he will consider the desirability of raising the Malwa rate to Rs.700 a chest.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): The duty is still Rs.600 a chest, to which amount it was raised from Rs.500 in 1904, on the ground that the price of Bengal opium had advanced to Rs.1,393 a chest. The present price of Bengal opium is below this figure. The continuous decline in the exports of Malwa opium would seem to indicate that the present rate of duty is not unduly favourable to the opium production of Native States, and the Secretary of State sees no sufficient reason for intervening in the matter.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can state the figures of the opium revenue for the first ten months of the current year 1906–7; whether they are in excess of the Budget estimate; if so, by how much; and can he furnish any explanation of the excess, if any, of actuals over the estimates.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE: Figures for the ten months have not yet been received from India. The figures for nine months are:—Gross receipts, £4,253,200 against £3,653,333 estimated. Increase, £599,867. The excess is due to higher prices having been obtained at the sales than was taken for the estimates.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India what is the price per seer now paid by the Government of India to the cultivators for Bengal opium; when that rate was last increased; and whether there are any complaints among the cultivators of poppy that in view of the increased price of other articles of produce, the amount now paid to them for opium is an unremunerative price.

MR. HOBHOUSE: The present price is Rupees 6 the seer. It was raised to that figure in 1894. The Secretary of State is not aware that such complaints have been preferred. Cultivators are under no obligation to grow opium. If the price is unremunerative, they can cease to take out licences. Of late, owing to favourable seasons for opium, the tendency has been in the other direction.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford) asked what steps were being taken to reduce the area of cultivation of the poppy.

MR. CHARLES HOBHOUSE said he understood that the Secretary of State had sent instructions to India to reduce, in the coming year, the area upon which opium would be cultivated.

SIR H. COTTON: Are not complaints frequent among the cultivators?

MR. HOBHOUSE: We have no record of the fact at the India Office.

The 10th Hussars.

MR. ROSE (Cambridgeshire, Newmarket): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether about 100 men of the 10th Hussars stationed at Rawul Pindi have been recommended by doctors to be invalided home and several more for a sea voyage, in consequence of the recent epidemic of fever in the regiment.

MR. HOBHOUSE: Perhaps I may be allowed to answer the question. The Secretary of State has no information enabling him to answer the hon. Member, but he will make inquiries from the Government of India.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): Will the inquiry be made by cable?

MR. HOBHOUSE: Yes, I understand so.

MR. LEA: And in the event of these men being ill will steps be at once taken to send them to the hills or on a sea voyage?

MR. HOBHOUSE: We had better await the reply.

British Indians in Natal.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government has arrived at any conclusion regarding the Municipal Corporations Act of Natal, whereby British Indian citizens are deprived of a right of which they are already possessed; and whether the Government will consider the propriety of suggesting to the Government of Natal that the fact that British subjects of an Oriental Empire, in which representative Parliamentary institutions are unknown, are necessarily without such Parliamentary franchise in such Empire, is of itself no sufficient reason why such persons, when otherwise worthy of the municipal franchise, should be deprived of such franchise in a British Colony.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): I would refer the hon. Member to the reply returned yesterday to a question by the hon. Member for Ashton-under-Lyne, regarding this Bill.† His Majesty's Government are quite aware of the objections which may fairly be urged against it, and are in communication with the Natal Government on the provision referred to.

---

† See Col. 706.

New Hebrides Convention.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS (Sheffield, Ecclesall): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the New Hebrides Convention has been proclaimed in the group.

MR. CHURCHILL: No Sir. For practical reasons it will probably not be possible to proclaim the Convention for a few months.

British Resident Commissioner in the New Hebrides.

MR. SAMUEL ROBERTS: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if he will state the name of the British Resident Commissioner in the New Hebrides.

MR. CHURCHILL: The British Resident Commissioner for the New Hebrides is Captain E. G. Rason, R.N.

Newfoundland.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the *modus vivendi* arranged last year with the United States relating to the Newfoundland fisheries will lapse; whether it is intended to renew it; and, if renewal is sought, whether the assent of Newfoundland will be sought before any arrangement is completed.

MR CHURCHILL: The *modus vivendi* with the United States relating to the Newfoundland fisheries lapsed about the middle of January when the fishery season for which it was made came to an end. As regards the future I can only say at present that it is proposed to discuss the fisheries question fully and in detail with the Prime Minister of Newfoundland when that gentleman is in London for the Colonial Conference.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies when the Commission to inquire into the question of recruiting in Portuguese East Africa will be appointed, aud when the names of the Commissioners will be announced to the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: I hope to be able to announce the names of the Commissioners and the date of meeting in a few days.

Labour Recruiting in Portuguese East Africa.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government to make application on behalf of other petitioning groups of mines to the Portuguese authorities for licences to recruit natives in Portuguese East Africa on the same conditions as have been arranged for the Robinson group of mines.

MR. CHURCHILL: The Secretary of State learns that the facilities for separate recruiting given to the Robinson group of mines have not up to the present been made fully effective by the Portuguese authorities. Pending the result of the inquiry which is about to take place His Majesty's Government do not propose to take any steps to alter the *status quo* as regards recruiting in Portuguese East Africa.

Colonial Conference.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he proposes to lay Papers upon the Table of the House containing the protests of the State Premiers of Australia and other correspondence relating to the calling of the Colonial Conference.

MR. CHURCHILL: We desire to lay Papers as soon as possible, and we will ask the Australian Government to consent to publication in anticipation of their receipt of the final despatch of the Secretary of State.

British East Africa.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that the white population of the British East Africa Protectorate would prefer to be under ordinary English law than under the Indian Penal Code; and whether, now that the railway population of East Indian

British subjects has left, he will consider the advisability of not retaining this code in force among a population in which East Indians are a comparatively insignificant factor.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am aware that the Colonists Association of the East Africa Protectorate have expressed a desire to be under English law rather than under the Indian Codes, but there are practical reasons which seem to the Secretary of State to render the adoption of the latter undesirable, and he is of the opinion that the association are inclined to overrate the extent of the differences between the two systems of law. At the same time he recognises that the Indian Codes are not in all respects suitable to the conditions of the Protectorate, and he proposes, as opportunity serves, to substitute for them local ordinances based on the Codes, from which such specifically Indian provisions as have been found to be undesirable can be omitted. The Secretary of State cannot admit that the East Indians are a comparatively insignificant factor among the population of the Protectorate, as the statistics of the population in Nairobi and Mombasa, the two principal towns, are as follows:—Nairobi, 579 Europeans; 3,071 East Indians; total population, 13,514. Mombasa, 200 Europeans; 5,550 East Indians; total population 25,800. The total number of Europeans in the Protectorate is about 2,000.

Alleged Russian Atrocities at Riga.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he would request the Consul at Riga to send an official Report on the alleged tortures applied to Russian subjects by the Russian Government in that city, and lay the Report on the Table of the House.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir Edward Grey): My right hon. friend cannot call for reports on allegations which appear in the Press, and which do not affect British subjects or Treaty rights.

Illegal Trawling by Norwegians in the Moray Firth.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the decision of the full bench of the High Court of Justiciary, in August 1906, that trawling inside a line between Duncansby Head and Rattray Head, in the Moray Firth, was by statute illegal, any representations were made by His Majesty's Government to the Norwegian Government in order to avoid the danger of collision between the law of this country and the claims of the Norwegian Government; what was the result of such representations; and whether he was aware of the impending prosecution by the Lord-Advocate of Norwegian trawlers at Elgin on 31st January for offences within these waters.

MR. RUNCIMAN: It is understood that the Norwegian Government would be willing to discuss arrangements as to trawling in the Moray Firth, but no special representations have yet been made to them as a consequence of the decision referred to in the Question. My right hon. friend was aware generally that the Scottish authorities intended to institute prosecutions to prevent British subjects, as far as possible, from making use of a foreign flag for the express purpose of breaking the law of this country with impunity.

Crown Lands Administration.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether a Treasury Warrant has been issued assigning to Lord Carrington the management and direction of certain Crown lands; if so, what is the area of such lands, who are the agents appointed to administer them, what remuneration is to be paid to the agents, and how does it compare with the remuneration paid to the agents to whom this work has hitherto been entrusted.

MR. RUNCIMAN: A Treasury Warrant has been issued assigning to the President of the Board of Agriculture, etc., the management and direction of the principal agricultural estates of the Crown, comprising a total area of about 62,811 acres. Messrs. J. Carter Jonas & Sons have been appointed agents or receivers for these estates. They are to be allowed £4 per cent. on the rents and profits collected by them as against varying rates (from £4 to £2 10s. per cent.) allowed to the late receivers, but the new rate is to cover services which were formerly paid for separately, and there is no reason to anticipate that the new arrangement will involve any additional total charge on the land revenues.

Housing Loan.

MR. MORRELL (Oxfordshire, Henley): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the recommendations contained in the recent Report of the Select Committee on Housing (paragraphs 89 to 95) as to the rates of interest charged by the Public Works Loans Commissioners on money advanced for housing purposes; whether he is aware that, although the statutory minimum under The Public Works Loans Act, 1897, is 2¾ per cent., the rates of interest actually charged under the Treasury Minute of 3rd March, 1904, vary from 3½ per cent. in the case of loans for twenty years to 4¼ per cent. in the case of loans for fifty years, so that the Treasury are making a profit on these loans not intended when the Housing Acts were passed; and whether, under the powers conferred on him by The Public Works Loans Act, 1897, he will at once issue a further Minute authorising a reduction of the rate.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): The recommendations of the Select Committee are receiving my careful consideration, and I am in communication with my right hon. friend the President of the Local Government Board on the subject. The proposals of the Government will be made known in connection with the Bill of which he has given notice. The Public Works Loans Act, 1897, prescribes that the rates of interest upon loans out of the Local Loans Fund shall be fixed by the Treasury from time to time, having regard to the duration of the loans, and shall be such rates not less than 2¾ per cent. as in the opinion of the Treasury are sufficient to enable the loans to be made without loss to the Local Loans Fund. This last proviso, of course, makes the adoption of the minimum rate in the present condition of the money market impossible. I should add that any profit which may result from existing rates does not go to the Treasury. The surplus income each year is carried to a Surplus Income Account of the Local Loans Fund, which, under the Public Works Loans Act, 1905, is liable to make good any deficiency on the Capital Account of the Fund caused by the issue of stock at a discount.

Drunkenness in Bradford.

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the report made by the chief constable of Bradford, at the recent brewster sessions, that, although licensed houses had been reduced by twenty-six since 1902, the number of persons proceeded against for drunkenness had increased from 2·31 per 1,000 to 4·02; whether the number of drinking clubs had greatly increased during that period, having regard to the above; and whether he intends to include in his forthcoming Licensing Bill some drastic regulation with reference to such clubs.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have seen the report mentioned and also a newspaper account of the speech of the Chairman of the Licensing Bench in which he draws attention to the increase in prosecutions for drunkenness. He added that he was unable, on the information at his disposal, to cast the blame on clubs. I have no information as to an increase of clubs in Bradford. It appears that 153 were registered in 1903, and that 154 have been registered this year. If there are in fact other clubs in which intoxicating liquor is supplied, and which ought to be registered, the police can and ought to proceed against them, if evidence is available. I have under consideration the question of further legislation in regard to clubs.

Poor Prisoners Defence Act.

MR. RENDALL (Gloucestershire, Thornbury): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that Mr. Wallace, K.C., at the London County Sessions at Newington, on 15th February, had declined an application under the Poor Prisoners Defence Act because the prisoner had not disclosed a defence before the committing magistrate, and had further said that he thought this was wrong, and not the intention of those who passed the Act, and that this part of the Act should be repealed, as the result was that the Act was rendered practically inoperative; and whether he will bring in a short amending Bill to remedy this defect, or will offer Government assistance to any private Member who may do so.

MR. GLADSTONE: No, Sir; Mr. Wallace has not communicated with me, and my attention has not been drawn to any observations such as are mentioned by my hon. friend. I can only refer my hon. friend to the reply which I returned to a similar Question on the 18th instant.† The charge of the Lord Chief Justice, to which I then alluded shows that the powers of the Chairman are very wide. I will communicate with the learned Chairman on the subject.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) asked whether this country was not behind all others in the matter of the defence of poor prisoners.

MR. GLADSTONE: I cannot give an unqualified affirmative to that.

Assistant Factory Inspectors and Inquests.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the assistant factory inspectors appointed to examine docks will be empowered to attend inquests.

MR. GLADSTONE: The arrangements for attendance at inquests in any district rest with the inspector in charge of the district, who has power to direct the assistant to attend in any case in which he considers it necessary or desirable.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD: In view of the new duties imposed on the assistant inspectors, is this rule to remain in force?

MR. GLADSTONE: I do not quite see in what direction it can be altered. The assistant must necessarily be under the authority of the inspector, and it will rest with the latter to decide whether or not he shall attend the inquest.

Gateshead Juvenile Offender.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that Mr. Maughan, of Gateshead, who, on the unsupported evidence of one policeman, on 7th May last, was deprived of his son for ten years, has recently been described in writing by thirty-five of his immediate neighbours as a respectable person, though in poor circumstances, and as a quiet, sober, and decent man; whether he is aware that Mr. Maughan denies that he has ever before been either warned by the police or fined, and says that he is being mistaken in this respect for another person of the same name; whether he is aware that Mr. Maughan bears an excellent character as a soldier in his Militia battalion; and whether, under these circumstances, he will cause further inquiries to be made into the character of the evidence given by the single policeman concerned in this case.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am aware of the circumstances of the case referred to by the hon. Member. Full and careful inquiry has been made as to Maughan's statement, but no evidence whatever can be found of the existence of the alleged person of the same name, and I do not propose to take any further action in the matter.

Police and Suffragists.

MR. MORRELL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has made inquiries into the allegations of brutality and rough usage made against the police in their treatment of women who took part in a demonstration outside this House on Wednesday last; whether he is aware that, in consequence of the violence shown by one of the constables, two ladies who were standing by asked him to give his number, which he refused to do; whether he was justified in refusing; and, if not, whether he will at once issue instructions on this subject so as to afford some protection to the public.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have made inquiries and I find no reason to believe that any brutality or unnecessary force was used by the police on Wednesday last. No complaint has reached me from those who were arrested. Only one specific allegation has been made, and that I am investigating. There is a Standing Order which requires constables to give their number when asked for it, but in the turmoil of last Wednesday it is possible that a request for a constable's number may not have been heard or may not have been heeded. Every man's number is, however, prominently displayed at two places, on the collar of the tunic jacket or greatcoat and on the helmet.

---

† See Col. 552.

MR. FLYNN (Cork County, N.): Was not the violence on the part of the ladies ?

[No Answer was returned.]

The Law and the Poor.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that in Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland, and other Continental countries, it is the custom for the State to pay expenses of litigation in the case of the poor; and whether, in accordance with the promise given by the Attorney-General last session, any decision whatever has been arrived at as to the possibility of following the Continental precedent in this respect.

MR. GLADSTONE: I fear I can add nothing to the Answer given by the Attorney-General to my hon. friend's Question of the 7th November last,† which was to the effect that as then advised he could not hold out any prospect that the Government would take action in the direction suggested.

Defence of the Poor in Scotland.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that there is a defensor for the poor in connection with the Edinburgh Legal Dispensary who appears in the Edinburgh Police Court; that a similar official has been appointed by the municipality of Dundee to act in the police court of that city; and whether, under these circumstances, he will use his influence to have a defensor for the poor in every police court in the Kingdom.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am afraid I do not see my way at present to propose legislation for the purpose of extending the operations of the Act of 1903 whereby poor prisoners can be supplied with legal assistance at the cost of the rates.

MR. ALDEN: Can the House not be supplied with information on this subject ?

MR. GLADSTONE: I will speak to the hon. Member and see if it is possible.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE: Does not the right exist in Scotland ? Cannot the law between the two countries be assimilated ?

MR. GLADSTONE was understood to say he did not claim we had yet arrived at perfection in this matter.

LORD R. CECIL: It has existed in Scotland 300 years.

Barnet Vaccination Conviction.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been called to the case of Mr. J. L. Honeywood, who was fined on 13th February at the Barnet police court, 20s. and costs, or fourteen days in default of distress, for refusing to vaccinate his child, notwithstanding that he had applied to the bench for an exemption certificate and had been refused; and if, under the circumstances of the case, he will remit the fine.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have made inquiry, but I am sorry that I cannot interfere in this case. Under the existing law vaccination is compulsory unless a certificate of exemption is obtained within four months of the birth of the child. The fact that an unsuccessful application for a certificate was made gives no immunity from prosecution, and affords no sufficient ground for a remission of the fine. I hope that Parliament will, at an early date, amend the law on this subject.

MR. LUPTON: Cannot the right hon. Gentleman remit a portion of the fine ?

MR. GLADSTONE: No, Sir, I think not.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxiv., 523.

Extinction of Licences.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by whose authority and in virtue of what law the power to borrow money for the extinction of licences under the Licensing Act, 1904, has been so restricted as to render any further reduction of licences by quarter sessions under the said Act impossible.

MR. GLADSTONE: Under Section 3 (5) of the Licensing Act, 1904, the consent of the Secretary of State for the Home Department is required for the raising of loans on the security of the compensation fund. I am not aware that any action on my part in laying down the conditions on which I have hitherto been prepared to give my consent has had the result suggested by the hon. and gallant Member.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: Has not the right hon. Gentleman by his action in refusing borrowing powers practically prohibited the extinction of licences?

MR. GLADSTONE: Each case has to be considered on its merits. If the right hon. Gentleman will put down a Question with regard to one, I will endeavour to answer it.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: I will do so.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): Do not the Liverpool justices complain that their powers have been considerably reduced——

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order! That does not appear to arise out of this Question.

The Board of Trade.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can say if the Archbishop of Canterbury is still a member of the Board of Trade; and, if so, how many meetings of the Board his colleague has attended since his appointment.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): The Archbishop of Canterbury is still a member of the Board of Trade, and has not missed a single meeting to which he has been summoned since I became President.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): But how many meetings have been held in that time?

[No Answer was returned.]

Spotted Fever.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, with reference to the recent outbreaks of spotted fever in the United Kingdom, whether there is any practical method of ascertaining that a tube of vaccine virus is at the time of use free from the contagion of cerebro-spinal meningitis; and, if the answer be in the negative, whether he will discontinue the manufacture of calf-lymph until it can be guaranteed free from all extraneous disease germs.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): I am advised that there is a practical method of ascertaining the presence of the organism of cerebro-spinal meningitis in vaccine lymph, and that, in the periodic bacteriological examination which is made of each batch of calf-lymph, this organism, if present and alive, would be detected. I am further advised that the processes adopted in the elimination of extraneous micro-organisms from the lymph would undoubtedly destroy the organism in question.

MR. J. W. WILSON (Worcestershire, N.) asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he had taken any steps in regard to spotted fever.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am issuing a circular to sanitary authorities relative to this disease, and I am forwarding to them a memorandum on the subject, which has been prepared by the medical officer of the Local Government Board. A report has recently been made by Dr. Gordon on the micro-coccus of epidemic cerebro-spinal meningitis with special reference to its identification in the upper respiratory passages. This report is in the Press, and will be published in the course of a few days. If further medical investigation is found necessary in connection with this matter, I shall not hesitate to take prompt steps.

MR. J. W. WILSON asked the right hon. Gentleman whether he had reason to expect any immediate danger.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I think there is no immediate cause either for panic or alarm. The local medical authorities are apprised of the position, and are doing their best in this matter.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) inquired whether the right hon. Gentleman had power to take, or had taken, any means to control the trade in old clothes in the city of Glasgow, through which the disease appeared to have been spread.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The Local Government Board is taking every step to ascertain what are the causes likely to spread this disease, and I will especially inquire into the matter raised by the hon. Member.

Medical Officers' Vaccination Fees.

MR. RAPHAEL (Derbyshire, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board for what reason the Board has insisted that the Poor Law guardians of the borough of Derby should pay the medical officer of the union workhouse a fee of 2s. 6d. for each case of vaccination at the workhouse in excess of the inclusive salary he is ready and willing to accept from the guardians; and if he will give instructions to his Department that in the future no action shall be taken to frustrate the endeavours of local authorities to secure economical administration.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The law contemplates that a contract will be entered into with a workhouse medical officer in respect of the vaccination of the persons in the workhouse and that a fee will be paid him in respect of each such vaccination. The remuneration for this purpose cannot properly be included in his salary, as the remuneration covers duties which would not devolve on him in the absence of a contract. But the fact that separate provision will be made in respect of fees for vaccination may of course be taken into account in determining the amount of the salary.

Legislation in Regard to Sale of Milk.

MR. RENDALL: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he will introduce legislation in regard to the sale of milk, to provide that where it is apparent to the inspector under the Food and Drugs Act that the producer is responsible for the adulteration, and the distributor has taken the precaution provided for by the Act, the distributor's business shall not be damaged by having his name dragged before the public through the medium of the police court.

MR. JOHN BURNS: My hon. friend has asked me to reply to this Question. I will note the suggestion in it for consideration in connection with any legislation for the Amendment of the Sale of Food and Drugs Act; but at present it appears to me that there would be difficulties in adopting the proposal.

MR. ALDEN: What does the hon. Gentleman consider to be the object of the Act—the protection of the consumer or of the trader?

MR. JOHN BURNS: The object is to protect the consumer. At present the law only applies to the distributor, but I hope before long the producer also will be made liable.

Telegraph Messengers and Christmas Boxes.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been drawn to the dismissal at Grays post office of three telegraph boys for accepting Christmas boxes: whether he is aware that they deny having solicited these gifts or otherwise broken the regulations; and whether he can see his way to reinstate them in the service.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): These boys were dismissed for collecting Christmas boxes. They admitted that they solicited these gifts, and that they knew that they were breaking a rule of the service, and rendering themselves liable to dismissal.

London Mail Van Drivers.

Mr. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he has now come to a decision as to the conditions of service of the Metropolitan mail van drivers.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: I regret the delay which has occurred but which was unavoidable, and I hope shortly to be in a position to make an announcement on the subject.

Mr. PICKERSGILL pressed for a more definite reply.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON pointed out that the matter was full of difficulties, as there was no recognised rate of wages in the trade.

Mr. PICKERSGILL: But does not the County Council pay the same rates as are claimed by the London Carmen's Union?

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The whole matter is under consideration. I am endeavouring to get the fullest possible information as to what rate of wages is paid, both from employers and from the Board of Trade, and I hope very shortly to be able to come to a decision.

Penny Post to America.

Mr. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether negotiations are in progress between this country and the United States with regard to the adoption of the penny post between the two countries; and, if not, will he commence such negotiations so that this country may enjoy the same advantages that our Colony of New Zealand does.

Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON: The Question is one of opportunity and of funds. No negotiations are in progress, and I have no statement to make in regard to the matter.

Milk Adulteration.

Mr. RENDALL: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, having regard to circulars issued by the Board concerning milk which falls below the legal standard owing to the conduct of the cow and not owing to the corrupt act of the cow owner or the milk distributor, he proposes to introduce legislation to safeguard milk vendors from prosecution in cases where it is proved that milk has been sold in the condition it left the cow.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): The suggestion made by my hon. friend will receive careful consideration in the event of any further legislation as to the sale of milk being proposed. In the meantime we shall be happy to make inquiries in any case in which it appears that proceedings have been instituted with regard to the alleged adulteration of milk, either under a misapprehension of the law or without due consideration of the facts of the particular case.

Beetroot Cultivation in the British Isles.

Mr. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the Board of Agriculture, whether he is aware that beetroot superior in quality to that grown in Germany can be successfully and profitably cultivated in these countries, even on lands of inferior quality; and, if so, what steps the Government intend to take in the matter of encouraging the growth of this crop in the British Isles.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY: Several experiments in the cultivation of sugar beet have been made in this country and, so far as they go, the yield compares favourably both as to quality and quantity with that obtained in Germany. We have published detailed information in our *Journal* as to the growth of the crop, and as to the use of dried sugar beet for fodder, and we shall bring to the notice of agriculturists any further information on the subject which seems likely to be of any value to them.

Vaccination Objections in Scotland.

Mr. McCALLUM (Paisley): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if the law is to be altered in England regarding compulsory vaccination, on the plea that the impediments placed in the way of conscientious objections are unsatisfactory, when may it be expected that similar advantages will be extended to Scotland.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): I have undertaken to consider this question, but am unable to give any definite reply at present.

Scottish Land Legislation.

MR. J. DEWAR (Inverness): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is to re-introduce the Scottish Small Landholders Bill at an early date.

MR. SINCLAIR: Yes, Sir.

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.

MR. A. WILLIAMSON (Elgin and Nairn): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if his attention has been called to the fact that yesterday Norwegian trawlers were still at work in the Moray Firth; will he order a cruiser to proceed there immediately and in the event of British subjects being found on board the offending boats will he at once order a prosecution; also, can he say, in view of the urgency of this question, when he will bring in the Bill prohibiting the landing of fish from these trawlers in British ports.

MR. SINCLAIR: Recently the Fishery Board have reported almost daily with regard to the protection of vessels trawling in the Moray Firth, and the cases are being examined into by the Crown authorities in Scotland with a view to prosecution. The Bill to which the hon. Member refers will be proceeded with with as little delay as possible.

Irish Untenanted Lands—Small Holdings.

MR. GINNELL (Westmeath, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that the official in charge of the Labour Department of the Irish Local Government Board is opposed to the formation of small holdings out of untenanted land, has volunteered evidence in that sense, has omitted to send to district councils Form No. 6 or instructions for its use, and has refused to supply that form to a Member of Parliament for the use of his constituents; and, if this action has not his concurrence and is not in accordance with the practice of the officials in Great Britain, will he direct Form No. 6 and a circular explaining the acquisition and disposal of tracts of untenanted land to be sent to every rural district council.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): I am informed that the hon. Member is under a misapprehension in supposing that an official of the Local Government Board has given any evidence to the effect stated in the Question. The Board have sent Form No. 6, and the Rules relating to it, to every district council in Ireland. The Rules provide that ratepayers and labourers are to be supplied with Form 6, free of charge, by the clerks of rural district councils. In the opinion of the Board, a circular explanatory of the acquisition and disposal of untenanted land is unnecessary, seeing that the law for the acquisition of land for cottages and allotments makes no distinction between tenanted and untenanted land.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): In order to make the Irish rural councils acquainted with their powers to acquire untenanted land for allotment purposes, and with the proper procedure, will the right hon. Gentleman take steps to issue to them full information on the subject.

MR. BIRRELL: I agree that they should have the fullest possible information, and it was thought that by sending out the form referred to to every district council in Ireland that purpose would be fulfilled. I will, however, look into the matter again.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will direct the attention of the Local Government Board for Ireland to the statements of some clerks of district councils that those bodies have no power to acquire tracts of untenanted land for the purposes of the Labourers Acts, or to let surplus land so acquired, and that they have not received either forms or instructions for those purposes; and if he will have sent to each rural district council a supply of Form No. 6, with a circular explaining the powers in question, and will have the time for completing schemes extended for three months to enable councils to avail themselves of their statutory powers in this respect.

MR. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board are not aware that any statements to the effect mentioned in the Question have been made. As I stated in reply to the previous Question, the law for the acquisition of land for the purposes of the Labourers Acts makes no distinction between tenanted and untenanted land. Under the Board's Rules, rural district councils are obliged to keep a supply of Form 6 and to furnish a copy, free of charge, to any ratepayer or labourer who may apply for it. The Board have no information before them pointing to the necessity for a further circular, or for an extension of time for the completion of schemes.

Lough Ennel Floods.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state in whom is control of Lough Ennel now vested; and whether in view of the tract of land at the head of the lough being now flooded every winter, he will move the proper authority to reconstruct the dam at Ballinagore in such a way as to keep the water in the lough at the same level in winter as in summer.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am informed that the persons responsible for maintaining the proper level of water in Lough Ennel are the trustees of the Kilbeggan Drainage District, for which the final award was published in 1857. The level is regulated by means of a weir, with a self-acting sluice; the sluice determines the level automatically, and the trustees have no power to alter it; their duty is to maintain it. The dam at Ballinagore is on the river Brosna, four miles below the sluice above referred to, and has therefore no effect on the level of the lake; nor have the trustees any power to alter it. The Board of Works tell me that they have not recieved any complaint of the flooding referred to.

Irish Land Purchase Annuities.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of writs issued for the recovery of land purchase annuities in Ireland, with the aggregate amount for which they were issued, in each of the last ten years to 31st December, 1906, and the number of purchasers in arrear on this latter date, with the aggregate amount of their arrears due to the State.

MR. BIRRELL: The Land Commission inform me that there are no records in their office giving the information asked for, and that to obtain even approximate figures would involve a lengthy investigation which would seriously retard the performance of the proper duties of the Department. It may be stated in general terms that the payment of land purchase annuities has been most punctual, and that in comparatively few cases have proceedings been necessary. At the present date, out of 97,890 tenant purchasers, only 473 are in arrear in respect of the annuities due in May and June last, and against these, proceedings for recovery have been instituted and are in various stages of progress.

Irish Land Purchase Bonuses.

MR. GINNELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, seeing that in the accounts of sales under the Land Act of 1903 the bonus is recorded as well as the price, will he grant a Return, if moved for, of the estates in respect of which bonus has been paid, with the amounts, and have the information embodied in future periodical official returns; and, if not, will he state the reasons for withholding information regarding such payments.

MR. BIRRELL: The Land Commission inform me that the preparation of the suggested return would be a very lengthy and difficult task, involving the examination of the records of each estate sold since the Act of 1903 came into operation, and that it would cause serious delay in the proper work of the Commissioners and their staff. In the circumstances, the Commissioners do not think it desirable to undertake the preparation of the return. They add, however, that the total amount which has been paid as bonus up to the 9th inst. is £1,471,000 in respect of about 1,400 estates.

West of Ireland Potato Crop Failure.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state the general scheme prepared by the Board of Agriculture for the purpose of preventing distress in the West of Ireland, due to the failure of the potato crop, mentioned by Mr. Bryce in his reply to a Question on December 5th last.†

MR. BIRRELL: I understand that the scheme in Question is to be fully explained by officers of the Department of Agriculture who are at present giving evidence before the Royal Commission on Congestion. I would ask the hon. Gentleman to await the appearance of that evidence.

MR. DILLON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state what arrangements have been made by the Irish Government for the supply of potato seed in those districts in the West of Ireland where the potato crop has failed and where the people, through poverty, are unable to procure good seed.

MR. BIRRELL: Measures are now being taken by the Local Government Board to secure that a sufficiency of good seed shall be available in those districts—happily, it is believed, few in number—in which owing to the partial failure of the potato crop there is a deficiency in that respect.

Tollymore Labourers Cottages.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that the Kilkeel Rural District Council recently acquired one acre one rood of land from the Earl of Roden in the townland of Tollymore, county Down, for the erection of two labourers cottages; that on this plot, in addition to and adjoining one of the cottages, a hall is being erected with a tablet bearing the inscription, United Irish League, A.D. 1907; whether the erection of such a hall on land compulsorily acquired for the purposes of the Labourers Acts, and paid for out of the rates, has received the sanction of the Local Government Board; and, if not, what action he intends taking in the matter.

MR. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board have ascertained that the hall in question is not being built upon land belonging to the rural district council. The land was originally taken by the council for the purpose of the Labourers Acts, but a portion of it, which was not required for that purpose, was reconveyed to the original occupier, and it is upon that plot that the hall is about to be built.

Cork County Extra Police Charges.

MR. FLYNN (Cork, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has been made aware of the proceedings at the Cork County Council on 7th February, and that the council protested against charges put forward by the Irish Government of £207 5s. 11d. and £120 respectively, for an alleged number of extra police, and likewise complained they were refused any information in respect to those charges; and what explanation the constabulary authorities have to offer in regard to the reasons for and justification of charges for extra police in a peaceable county and for withholding all information from the county council.

MR. BIRRELL: I understand that the fact is as stated in the first part of the Question. The county council have since arranged to pay the charges in dispute. These charges were for extra police sent, during the half years ending 31st March and 30th September, 1906, to certain disturbed areas in County Cork by Order of the Lord-Lieutenant on the representation of the responsible police authorities that such extra police were necessary for the preservation of the peace. The charge upon the local authorities is mandatory under Statute, and the county council have been so informed.

MR. FLYNN: If the information is so easily available why was it not supplied to the council in response to repeated requests?

[No Answer was returned.]

Liscarroll Experimental Farm, Cork.

MR. FLYNN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Department of Agriculture propose to abandon the experimental farm at Glenfield, Liscarroll, county Cork; if so, what are the reasons which actuate the Department in taking this course; was the farm worked at a loss; and, if so, what was the amount of the alleged loss; and whether, in view of the importance of these experimental farms to an agricultural community, the Department will reconsider the matter, and meantime consult the Kanturk Rural District Council before taking final action.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxvi., 942 *et seq.*

Mr. BIRRELL: The farm at Glenfield was taken by the Department of Agriculture with a two-fold object, (1) to demonstrate that the disease of white scour in calves can be prevented, and (2) that cheese can be successfully made in Ireland. These objects have been attained, and the farm has accordingly been surrendered. The question of profit or loss did not influence the Department in discontinuing the farm, and as a matter of fact the cheesemaking proved to be profitable.

Advances under the Irish Land Purchase Act, 1903.

Mr. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the total amount of the advances applied for under the Purchase Act of 1903 to the end of January and the total amount of the advances which have been sanctioned; and whether, in view of the loss which is being occasioned to buyers and sellers through the congestion of business in the Land Commission, he will state what arrangements, financial and otherwise, have been made for expediting the working of the Act.

Mr. BIRRELL: The total amount of the advances applied for, including purchases by the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board, is £45,499,862; and the total amount sanctioned, £16,088,919. The question of increasing the Estates Commissioners' staff, with the object of expediting the operation of the Act, is now under consideration.

In answer to a further Question,

Mr. BIRRELL said he would take every step he possibly could to facilitate the working of the Act.

Trinity College, Dublin, Estates Commission.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any effect has been given to the recommendations of the Trinity College, Dublin, Estates Commission; and whether it is intended to introduce legislation this session to enable lessees, holding under leases originally made for terms of ninety-nine years, under The Trinity College, Dublin, Leasing and Perpetuity Act, 1851, to sell, as immediate landlords under the Land Purchase Acts, in the same manner as if not less than sixty years of the said terms were unexpired.

Mr. BIRRELL: I find that this Question was fully debated in this House on 3rd April last,† when the hon. Member took part in the discussion. My right hon. friend the Attorney-General for Ireland then stated on behalf of the Government that it would be time enough several years hence to consider whether the wide recommendations of the Commission should be carried into effect, and that the Government could give no pledge to deal with the matter during that or any other session. The position remains unaltered.

Mr. LONSDALE: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that some thousands of those tenants are deprived of the advantages of the Land Act of 1903 in consequence of the condition referred to in the Question.

Mr. BIRRELL: I am afraid I cannot go back on my Answer.

Kerry Herring Fishery.

Mr. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the evidence given before the Congested Districts Commission, on the 15th inst., to the effect that the herring fishery off the Kerry coast is being greatly developed; and whether, in view of the fact that there is no proper pier accommodation in Valentia Harbour where the railway terminates, he will take the necessary steps to secure the construction of a pier in order that this new fishery development may not be checked by the impossibility of landing the fish at the railway terminus.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clv., 447 *et seq.*

MR. BIRRELL: I understand that evidence as regards the possibility of developing the Irish fisheries was recently given before the Royal Commission on Congestion. The Irish Government have for some time past recognised the desirability of securing additional pier accommodation at Reenard, in Valentia Harbour, where the railway terminates, and have sought the co-operation of the Railway Company in the matter, but so far without success. The Government are now considering whether, having regard to the limited funds now available under the Marine Works Act, some improvements cannot be effected at Reenard under that Act.

Banbridge Labourers Cottages.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord - Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the application of the Banbridge Rural District Council, county Down, for sanction for supplemental loans for the erection of labourers cottages; whether he can state what would be the total cost of the erection of each cottage in the event of the supplemental loan being sanctioned, and how much of such cost is assigned to engineering and law expenses; whether the Local Government Board have made or propose to make any inquiry into the details of the engineering and law expenses; whether, if sanction for the supplemental loans be withheld, he can state if the extra cost will be recoverable from the ratepayers; and, if so, whether the ratepayers will have any remedy.

MR. BIRRELL: The Banbridge Rural District Council have recently applied to the Local Government Board to sanction supplementary loans, amounting to £2,005, for the purpose of defraying liabilities incurred in excess of the original loans of £5,875 for labourers' cottages. If the supplemental loans were sanctioned, the total cost of providing each cottage and plot would be £350, of which £100 consists of engineering, law, and other incidental expenses. The Board have refused to sanction the supplemental loan upon the ground that the engineering and law expenses are disproportionately large, and that the council have not exercised adequate control over the expenditure. The Board's sanction being withheld, the extra cost must be defrayed directly out of the rates. The Board are not aware that the ratepayers possess any remedy in law against the council, who are their elected representatives. The question, however, is one of law, upon which I do not express an opinion.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: Can the right hon. Gentleman say how this exorbitant sum is spent on legal expenses for every cottage?

MR. BIRRELL: It is not legal expenses alone: there are also engineering expenses.

Boycotting Statistics.

MR. J. F. MASON (Windsor): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenants of Ireland if he will supply a Return of all persons now in any way interfered with in the exercise of legal rights as a result of boycotting; of all persons called upon to surrender grazing farms; and of all persons who have in the past ten months surrendered legal rights after interference by league branches, or after public meetings held in their localities.

MR. BIRRELL: The Inspector-General of the Royal Irish Constabulary informs me that on 31st January there were ten cases of serious boycotting in Ireland, and thirty-eight cases of minor boycotting or attempts to boycott. It would be manifestly undesirable to publish the names of the persons affected. The Inspector-General futher states that the police are not in a position to furnish accurate information upon the remaining heads of the Question.

Bann Drainage.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state what progress has been made towards carrying out the drainage of the Bann area.

MR. BIRRELL: A valuation of the lands which would be beneficially affected by the adoption of the proposed drainage scheme has been in progress for some months past, and will, I understand, be completed in the course of next month. Upon the receipt of the valuer's report the Government will be in a position to further consider the question.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) asked what steps were to be taken with regard to ballot for Motions on going into Committee on the Army Estimates.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): And in the event of the debate on the Address finishing to-night, what will be the business to-morrow?

* MR. KEIR HARDIE: Will the debate on the Motion now under consideration be finished at a reasonable hour to enable a discussion to be taken on the unemployed question, seeing that this may be the only opportunity we shall have for a long time to come?

SIR H. COTTON: Is there to be no discussion on Indian affairs. Seeing that this is the only occasion—

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): What facilities will be given for the Amendment down on the Paper in my name?

MR. ASQUITH said the ballot for Army Motions would be taken the next day. The statement on the Army would be made by his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War on Monday. It was proposed to take Civil Service Supplementary Estimates to-morrow. It was essential for financial reasons that the Address should be passed at to-night's sitting, and although, to prevent mishap, they proposed to suspend the eleven o'clock rule, there were no sufficient grounds, in the opinion of the Government, for asking the House to sit up late. The manner in which the time was to be employed rested entirely with the House. The debate on the Amendment now under discussion was, in the view of the Government, though no doubt full of dialectical and psychological interest, not of a very practical character and, so far as the Government were concerned, after his right hon. friend the President of the Board of Trade had explained, as he would at an early hour, their attitude, they did not, as at present advised, propose personally to contribute to its further prolongation. If the division on this Amendment was taken at a reasonable time, no doubt another Amendment might be taken up. He observed that there were no less than thirty Amendments on the notice paper, and it rested entirely with Mr. Speaker, and not with the Government, to select which should be taken.

NEW MEMBERS SWORN.

The Right Hon. Reginald McKenna for County of Monmouth (Northern Division.)
Walter Waring, esquire, for County of Banff.

NEW BILLS.

REFORMATORY AND INDUSTRIAL SCHOOLS BILL.

"To amend the Law as to Reformatory and Industrial Schools," presented by Mr. George Greenwood; supported by Sir John Kennaway, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Gooch, and Mr. Charles Nicholson; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 6th March, and to be printed. [Bill 56.]

CHURCH DISCIPLINE.

MR. AUSTIN TAYLOR (Liverpool, East Toxteth), in asking leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Church Discipline Act, 1840, and the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874, said the object of this Bill was to abolish the veto of the Bishops and to substitute deprivation for imprisonment in the case of clergymen who either in matters of ritual or doctrine defy the law. The Bill had already received the sanction of the last House of Commons. Amongst those who had supported it when it was before Parliament in 1903 were sixteen members of the present Government. The Bill was opposed by the present Leader of the Opposition, who used all the resources of his dialectical skill on that occasion to resist its passage. His apology for introducing this Bill now was the urgency and the critical character of the situation in the Church of England. No impartial observer would deny that the real question in connection with that Church as an Established Church was whether or not it was going to retain its Protestant character. Another Bill had been introduced by the Member for Exeter, who had received the support of something like 230 Members, which was sufficient proof of the weight of opinion behind the demand that something should be done. The real question behind both these Bills was whether the plant and capital of the Church of England was to be retained by a Church which was recognised, or ought to be recognised, as one of a Protestant character. The Leader of the Opposition had his doubts on this point and appointed a Royal Commission, which reported six months ago. That Commission, amongst other findings, found, at least, that there was a large increase in forms of worship in the Church of England approximating to those of the Church of Rome, and that this was due to a widespread and organised movement amongst a large and increasing body of clergy and laity. The Commission also recommended that certain practices specifically named should be promptly made to cease by the action of the Bishops. Six months had elapsed, and they had no evidence as to whether the Bishops had done anything or not. The Government had issued Letters of Business to Convocation to consider the desirability of altering the Prayer-book, but no alteration of the Prayer-book by Convocation would relieve the Government and Parliament of their responsibility for seeing that the services in the parish churches were carried out in accordance with the law. He did not think that the Government either could or would seek to wash their hands of responsibility in this matter by Letters of Business or letters of any kind. The Bill did not represent the full demand of those who felt keenly upon this question. The Bill of the Member for Exeter more perfectly did that. But it would be perfectly possible for the Government, in the intervals between dealing with the House of Lords and Ireland and all questions of social reform, to pass both these Bills if they felt so inclined. He recognised as fully as any hon. Member that they were dealing, in the case of the Church of England, with a spiritual organisation, and that they required to move warily in so doing; but he was perfectly confident that the situation that had arisen in that Church could not with safety be left to settle itself, and he trusted that the Government would take this opportunity, or some opportunity very shortly, of expressing a clear and decided line of action on what was one of the burning questions of the day. He begged to move.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to amend the Church Discipline Act, 1840, and the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874."—(*Mr. Austin Taylor.*)

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.) said he understood from the hon. Member that the Bill he was asking leave to introduce did not propose to make any change in the law as regarded doctrine, discipline, or ceremony. It had for its object the provision of a simpler machinery for enforcing the law as it existed at the present time. If that were so, it was an object which must command the sympathy of all law-abiding citizens, including His Majesty's Government. Therefore he need not say that they would not in any degree oppose——

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.), on a point of order, asked whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer was entitled to address the House except in opposition to the Bill.

*MR. SPEAKER: Strictly speaking, under the Standing Order, it is only a Member who wishes to oppose a Bill who is entitled to address the House, but, of course, until a speech is finished it is impossible to say what course any hon. Gentleman proposes to adopt.

MR. ASQUITH: I must admit that I ought to waive my right to speak in favour of the noble Lord. I was going to say we will reserve our opinion until we have seen whether the provisions of the Bill are really adequate.

Question put, and agreed to.

Ordered to be brought in by Mr. Austin Taylor, Mr. Thomas Herbert, Mr. Harmood-Banner, Dr. Hazel, Sir Joseph Leese, and Mr. Cameron Corbett.

CHURCH DISCIPLINE BILL.

"To amend the Church Discipline Act, 1840, and the Public Worship Regulation Act, 1874," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 57.]

STANDING ORDERS.

Ordered, That the Select Committee on Standing Orders do consist of Thirteen Members:—Sir John Brunner, Mr. Crombie, Sir Frederick Cawley, Mr. Ellis, Sir Thomas Esmonde, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Sir Joseph Leese, Colonel Long, Mr. Mildmay, Mr. William Redmond, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. James Stuart, and Mr. David Alfred Thomas were accordingly nominated Members of the Committee.—(*Sir John Brunner.*)

SELECTION.

Mr. Blake, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Fenwick, Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Sir William Brampton Gurdon, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Herbert Roberts, Mr. William Frederick Smith, and Mr. Eugene Wason were nominated Members of the Committee of Selection, together with the Chairman of the Select Committee on Standing Orders.—(*Sir William Brampton Gurdon.*)

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (KING'S SPEECH) (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the proceedings on the King's Speech (Motion for an Address), if under discussion at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Orders (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 348; Noes, 100. (Division List No. 5.)

AYES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, Wm. (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herb. Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. G.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire, Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets, S. Geo.)
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J H (EssexRomford)
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs. Leigh)
Brunner, RtHnSirJT (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH (Sussex, EGrinst'd)
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickinson, W. H. (StPancras, N.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flavin, Michael Joseph
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius

Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbysh., N.E.)
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Endison
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kevewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt, Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk Bghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John W.
M'Crae, George

M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Chas. N. (Doncaster)
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpton
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G Scott (Bradf'rd)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.

Robson, Sir Wm. Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford V.H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Chas. Edward (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr)
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)

Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Wodehouse, Lord
Wood, T. M'Kinnon
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. Herbert Lewis.

NOES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood-
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A. (Worc)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.)
Craig, Captain James (Down E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Doulgas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans (T'r Ham.)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds)
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm)
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesham)
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.)
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington)
Percy, Earl
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

KING'S SPEECH (MOTION FOR AN ADDRESS).

Order read, for resuming Adjourned Debate on Amendment proposed [19th February] to Question proposed [12th February], "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth:—

"Most Gracious Sovereign,

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."—(*Mr. Tomkinson.*)—

Which Amendment was—

"At the end of the Question to add the words 'But this House humbly expresses regret that no reference is made in Your Majesty's Speech to the approaching Colonial Conference, and to the opportunity thereby offered for promoting freer trade within the Empire and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis.'"—(*Mr. Hills.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there added."

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London) said: Mr. Speaker, we were treated yesterday to a spectacle which, I think, is unique in the matter of Parliamentary arrangements, at all events is unique in my experience. A Motion was brought in, the importance of which, whatever we may think of it, is denied by no section of this House. It was moved and seconded in speeches of great ability and of great moderation, and the Government took six hours to reflect before they put up one of their members to reply. The ordinary course, the most ordinary course, is that some member of the Government shall rise to give his opinion and the opinion of his colleagues upon an Amendment to the Address immediately after the Motion has been moved and seconded. I quite agree that is not an invariable rule, and there is no impropriety in allowing some interval to elapse between the Motion being put and the reply of a responsible Minister; but I never heard of that interval being extended from a quarter to five in the afternoon till a quarter past ten in the evening. When I listened to the speech which was delivered at a quarter past ten in the evening some glimmering of the reason for the postponement began to dawn upon me. I think the Under-Secretary for the Colonies had anticipated that his task would be to reply to quite a different kind of speech from the very able speeches which were in fact delivered by my two hon. friends behind me, and that his artillery, against the efficiency of which I say nothing, at all events is deficient in mobility. He required some hours reflection before he could readjust his batteries to the new situation. But even then the hon. Gentleman failed altogether to deal with the very able and interesting speech delivered by my hon. friend the Member for Dulwich, who spoke late last evening. Indeed, he told my hon. friend with perfect truth that his speech was a model of close reasoning, but whether the reasoning was too close to be answered, or for some other reason, there was literally no attempt to deal with my hon. friend's arguments, unless we are to consider it as dealing with his arguments to describe that speech as an overt declaration in favour of protection. Nobody who listened to the speech, who also happens to know what protection is, could for a moment suppose that that charge was justified by anything that my hon. friend said. My hon. friend's argument was a most able argument in favour of the advantage—nay, more than the advantage, the pressing necessity—to this country of markets outside these shores. Those who think the need of this country for external markets is a great and growing need are not therefore protectionists. There are, on the other hand, those who see clearly what is the inevitable result, which I for one am willing to face, of the great movement which culminated in the abolition of the Corn Laws in 1846. It is that movement which has made these external markets a necessity. If you keep a great agricultural population in the country in the only way you can, by protection—the way the French, the Germans, and other nations, subject to this foreign competition in the matter of food, keep such a population—no doubt the need for foreign markets may be less pressing—it would always be great, but it would be less pressing, less absolutely imperative than it is under our existing system. But we have deliberately, and I think rightly, said we do not mean to hamper our national development by attempting to preserve a great agricultural population by high protective duties on foodstuffs. I am prepared to face the true consequences of that choice, when we openly proclaimed ourselves a country which has to live by its manufactures, which has to import vast quantities of food stuffs, vast quantities of raw material, which must have a great export trade, and to which it is an absolutely vital necessity that that export trade should be carried on under the most favourable conditions. That is not protection; that is free trade; and it was to that thesis that my hon. friend addressed himself in the powerful speech he made last night. I should not complain, however, of the Under-Secretary's evading the duty of replying to his predecessor in debate, if his own speech had really contained any contribution to the really great national issue which this Amendment involves. The hon. Gentleman could not get above the level of the ordinary electioneering platform speech. He is an excellent platform speaker and an excellent electioneerer. My praise is sincere. There is no tincture of irony in it. He is an excellent platform speaker and electioneerer, but there are occasions, and I think this is one, on which the representative of that department which has to deal with all the great self-governing Colonies, might have kept the Imperial aspect of this question before his mind. A little less Party would not, I think, have been unbecoming the representative in this House of one of the greatest departments in the State. Who would have guessed, from listening to the hon. Gentleman, that the great self governing Colonies had practically without a dissentient voice expressed, not once or twice, but persistently and for a series of years, their desire to see this preferential system adopted? No one would have conjectured, or would hardly have conjectured, such a request had been made. The hon. Gentleman, at all events, did not think it of importance to deal with that aspect of the question. But to me that aspect of the question is the most vital, the most fundamental, of all, because I think that here the Colonies have themselves made a contribution towards a solution of the greatest problem which any Empire has had to face, a problem which is absolutely new in the history of the world, for which we can learn nothing from history, to which no parallel exists in the records of civilisation — I mean how an Empire which consists of these separate self-governing Colonies is both to grow in strength, in numbers, and at the same time in unity.

It is one of the commonplaces—not, I think, a very illuminating commonplace—to liken the Empire of which we are citizens to the ancient Empire of Rome. But the problem we have to deal with is not only not the same problem which the Romans had to deal with—it is exactly the opposite problem. The problem they had to deal with was how to bring within the compass of the Roman Empire a large number of States that had previously been independent States, to make them forget their independence, to make them merge all their aspirations in the larger unity of the conquering City, and to regard themselves no longer as Greeks, Egyptians, Gauls, Spaniards, or Britons, but as citizens of Rome. Our problem is exactly the reverse. We have to deal with young, growing nations conscious of their destiny. We do not want to make the Canadian forget that he is a Canadian and that Canada is going to be one of the greatest communities in the world; we do not want to make the Australian forget he is an Australian and that Australia is going to rank as one of the great free communities which owe their origin, no doubt, to this country, but have a great independent life of their own. We want to find a plan by which this growth of nationality, this consciousness of a great future, which these young communities have in so full a measure, is to be combined with that sense of communion in some higher unity with the Mother Country which gave them birth. That is a problem which we have only half solved, and of which the half solution we have given deals only with the negative half of the question. There was a time when, I think very naturally, this country, although far in advance of other nations with regard to management of colonies, had not realised—there are some politicians who have not realised it yet—that you cannot call into being great representative Assemblies and put one under the control of, and in subordination to, another, and that, if you choose to have Legislatures in Massachusetts, going back to the eighteenth century, and in Canada, going back to the last century, if you choose to have a Legislature in Ireland, looking forward to the possibilities of the future, it is folly to suppose those Assemblies you have brought into existence, those very institutions to which you have given birth, when you have brought them into existence are going to subordinate their views even to the Mother of Parliaments. So far as the Colonies are concerned we learned the lesson, and it was a sharp lesson, in dealing with America. I am not sure I should say we have all learned it. I have heard suggestions of dealing with the last offspring of our colonial effort in a manner which I think shows that the lesson of America has not penetrated to the depths of the consciousness of hon. Gentlemen opposite. At all events, I think we may broadly lay down that the solution of the negative half of the problem is, at all events, very generally accepted, namely, that we are not to interfere, and that we cannot interfere, with the development and free conduct of their affairs by these self-governing communities. But the positive half remains unsolved and has been a constant perplexity to statesmen of all parties, and to thinkers of all times. How are you going, if you do not mean to have any constitutional power of interference, to keep living the bonds that unite those separate autonomous communities? Many suggestions have been made. It has been suggested, for example, that there should be an Imperial Council with executive powers, in which all these Colonies and in which, of course, we should be represented. I think that must be for this generation, and for many generations, perhaps for all time, but at all events for the present generation, absolutely abandoned. I do not believe that we should submit to it. I am quite positive that our autonomous Colonies would not hear of it. Mould it how you will, have it how you like, frame it how you will, such central council must interfere with some of the prerogatives, and some of the powers which no representative Assembly having Ministers responsible to it would ever submit to have interfered with.

Giving up that solution we must also, I think, give up the idea of an Imperial zollverein in the true and full sense of that word. If by zollverein is meant some arrangement with regard to taxation similar to that which prevails in the German Empire, which involves powers of exceptional taxation, and powers on the part of the central authority to arrange the fiscal system of all the separate units of which the Empire consists, that power will never be given to any central body, nor do I see how it could be given without the utmost inconvenience, and worse than inconvenience, to all the separate States concerned. Although we may all aspire in the language of the resolution to seeing freer trade adopted within the Empire, the idea that the British Empire can be like the German Empire, and have within it no Customs House lines is an idea which however attractive, is quite impracticable under existing conditions. If these two great ambitious plans are rejected, as they must be rejected, there are humbler methods and humbler contributions, the merits of which I do not mean to dwell upon now. It has been thought, I thought, and I still think, that the peculiar constitution of the Committee of Defence gives the Colonies an opportunity —it is in itself not an executive body— of consulting with us on any question which they desire to consult us upon, and arranging with us questions concerning our common security against external attack. That has been done under the late Government. I do not know that it has, as yet, been very largely taken advantage of, but a sufficient beginning has been made to make me hopeful that that is a contribution, modest but substantial, towards the positive solution of the problem which I have endeavoured to describe to the House. There is another positive contribution which I think might have been made, which we began to make, but which for some reason wholly unknown to me the present Government has absolutely put their foot down upon. I do not think the suggestion was objected to by any Colony, and it was very enthusiastically welcomed by many Colonies, that there should be some kind of permanent staff in this country which should have no executive and no diplomatic authority, but whose business it should be to prepare the work for the Conferences as they meet at each four-yearly period. That suggestion was in an advanced state when we left office, but Lord Elgin or someone in the Cabinet, I presume, for some reason wholly unknown to me and not explained to the House in any Paper, has put his foot down upon it and expressed dissent from it, and that very modest and very excellent contribution towards a positive solution of the problem has been deferred *sine die* by the executive action of the Government.

Putting this aside, in what direction can we turn for a contribution to the positive solution of this subject? We can only turn, I think, to encouraging in every way we can mutual service and mutual obligations between different parts of the Empire, and a constant consciousness in each part of the Empire that it is but a part of a greater whole, and to that greater whole each must, within reasonable limits, do its best to contribute. We do a great deal in the way of defence I quite agree. That is a valuable contribution. Now the Colonies come in, and widely scattered as they are, some in the northern hemisphere and some in the southern hemisphere, with no organised system of intercommunication, have all come to a nagreement upon this point, and they believe that this feeling of mutual service and mutual obligation between different parts of the Empire will be ministered to to an important extent if we can only establish some form of commercial preference within the Empire. Of course I quite grant that if the ideas which we associate, perhaps wrongly, with the days of the late Mr. Cobden had been carried out, if we were all extreme individualists in domestic politics, if we were all extreme free traders in fiscal politics, and if we were all given to that separatism which regards disruption of the Empire with indifference, if not with favour, I quite agree that that solution would be no contribution to the final result. But although practically fragments of Mr. Cobden's doctrine remain, as a coherent system it has been abandoned by everybody. Extreme individualism, and extreme free trade may exist, although under cross-examination it usually breaks down, and certainly it does not exist in the mind of the author of the Shipping Bill or of the Patents Bill. All countries in the world, excepting our own, whether their fiscal system be one of extreme protection or protection of a more moderate type, use the fiscal machinery at their disposal for carrying out general ends. Do not let any man in this House suppose that I think that if we adopt the general view we are going to lighten the labours of the House. I do not think we are. I think that fiscal arrangements are always difficult, and if I could believe as people so frequently did believe sixty years ago, that the height of wisdom in government is for the Government to do nothing, that every individual must fight for himself without help and without favour, that it would not matter whether Empires stood or Empires fell so long as the individuals composing those Empires could buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest market—if I could believe that the height of fiscal wisdom was to put all your taxes upon the smallest number of commodities, and these not manufactured or capable of being manufactured in our own country, I quite agree that it would be a creed of delightful simplicity which would be dear to the heart of any man, who ever has been or is connected with the Government of the country or is connected with those who have had such a connection. I cannot believe that. I am afraid that we must submit to the universal necessity. We must face the fact that in all departments of life Government is becoming more difficult and more complicated, and problems are arising for solution which our fathers would not have attempted to solve, but would have brushed on one side as altogether outside the scope and sphere of government properly understood. I am very sorry that is so. I wish my lot had been cast in a simpler age—for this amongst other reasons, that I see manifest signs that the reaction against this extreme and now abandoned individualism in all its forms is in danger of running to excess. We are face to face with those who wish for extreme protection in fiscal matters, socialism in political matters, who wish unduly to extend, as I think, the functions of the State, and who are going to get themselves and the whole community into difficulty by their action. I was led into that remark by a cheer, which I suppose was ironical, and by a very interesting speech which I heard yesterday from the hon. Gentleman the Member for Leicester. He gave us a description of what the working man in Australia thinks on the fiscal question. He appears to be not only a protectionist in the sense in which protection is understood in France, Germany, and America, but he appears to have carried protectionist views to a point which I do not think was ever dreamt of by any economist of any school that ever existed. He represents what may be a tendency not of the Australian working man alone. I think the time may come when I shall be endeavouring to prevent hon. Gentlemen opposite being swept away by a protectionist flood which will derive all its volume, as it derives its volume in Australia, Canada, France, Germany and America, not from the wealthy few, but from the great mass of the employed. The time may come when my opinion, so unwelcome now, will be viewed by hon. Gentlemen opposite in a far more favourable light.

If I am right in stating the mere fact that the Colonies put forward as their ideal, or an approach to their ideal, this system of Imperial preference, is it not a fact of the greatest possible importance, and ought not the Government, upon going into conference with the Colonies, to keep an open mind on the subject? Their action in this respect is what I complain of; I do not complain of their seeing objections to such a system; what I do complain of is that they refuse even to discuss with the Colonial Premiers means and methods by which such a proposal might be carried out. Then I am told I am quite wrong, that the Colonies do not really want to make any change, and that we have only to study their fiscal aspirations to see that, whatever their public men may say in

Mr. A. J. Balfour.

public, they do not mean to give the slightest advantage to goods of British origin. I confess I do not accept that view. It seems to me directly contrary to all evidence, contrary to the plain facts of the case. But supposing it to be true, would that not come out at once if His Majesty's Government went into conference with the Colonial representatives and said, "We should like to hear how you propose, on our present basis of taxation, to establish a form of preference between the different parts of the Empire?" Then, if the Colonial Prime Ministers held the view which has been attributed to them, if the whole thing be a mere shallow pretence, it would come out in the course of examination and be clear to all men, the question would drop, we should hear no more of it, and Colonial preference would be another ineffectual effort to find a solution of a practical difficulty and would disappear from the arena of political controversy. Observe, the Amendment does not ask, and I believe the Colonies do not ask, that we should adopt a wholly new system of taxation in order to carry out such a proposal. They do not demand that we should abandon our system and add enormously to the list of articles subjected to duty—that is not the demand they make; in fact, to do them justice, I do not think they make a demand at all. The suggestion they make is that an attempt should be made to use whatever fiscal system we possess to carry out a scheme of Imperial preference between the different parts of the Empire—that we should make an attempt. And why should not an attempt be made? Why cannot you make an attempt? It seems to me it is open to you to ask how they would propose to do it. You go into conference and say:—"We do not propose to put a duty on any article not now subject to duty, and with this limitation can you suggest a method for carrying out such a scheme? Let us talk it over." But the Government will not do that; they reject, plainly and directly, without circumlocution, what is, after all, a demand made by every one of those great communities, and which we should consider in connection with our first duty to bind them more and more closely with the Empire of which they are part. I quite agree, according to the views many of us on this side of the House hold—views I hold—you will be forced by the mere pressure of your financial necessities greatly to widen, to broaden your system of taxation. I do not believe that any man who seriously considers the demands made upon the Exchequer and the resources the Exchequer has to meet those demands, can seriously believe that the present basis of taxation can be maintained. If you have to adopt a new system of taxation, a new basis of taxation, I say of that, as I say of the present basis, see how far it will go to carry out what the Colonies desire in the shape of a preferential arrangement between the different parts of the Empire. I go further. We on this side are more impressed than are hon. Gentlemen opposite with the growing difficulty in finding the necessary markets for our increasing productions. I believe the strangulation of our development as a great commercial nation is to be feared if these markets are not to be found. I am not comforted, as the Under-Secretary for the Colonies was comforted, by a study of the trade statistics of this year or that year. We have heard some interesting speeches in which the view was expressed that there had been no great change in the industrial world in the last quarter of a century, and that we might look on our rivals with the same contentment in 1906 as we did, say, in 1876. But that is a complete illusion—it is a dangerous illusion. We are face to face, not with a temporary difficulty, but with a situation of growing difficulty, and it is the duty we have to meet this growing difficulty that should preoccupy the mind of those who wish to use the fiscal controversy, not for Party purposes, but to further the interest of the Empire as a whole. The time must come when we must have a broader basis of taxation and be able to use that broader basis of taxation for increasing our command of foreign markets and for obtaining closer commercial connection with our Colonies. If anybody draws a lurid picture, as the Under-Secretary did, of the suffering to be imposed by such broadening of the basis of taxation on the poorer classes of the community, let me tell him that a reason for broadening the basis of taxation is to meet the needs of the poorer classes. It is for their sake you will do it, if you have to do it. The idea that their lot is going to be injured by any such readjustment as I have suggested shows that those who entertain that idea have not considered the elements of the problem, for the demand must come from the poorer classes and be understood by them before the House is likely to accept it. Of course, these are matters for the future, and we do not ask the Government to enter upon them. All that this resolution asks for is that the Government should not rule out of the business of the Conference some attempt at discussion of the possibility of giving, on the present basis, some preferential advantage to the Colonies by one means or another. If you persist in the course you are adopting do you not think you will check that very feeling in the Colonies upon which the stability of the Empire depends—that mutual desire to give and to receive services as parts of one organic whole? The Under-Secretary for the Colonies paid a deserved compliment to the Colonies when he said their position was "perfectly correct." Of course, it is perfectly correct, but in what connection do we habitually use this word "correct"? We use it of husband and wife, who, long at feud, yet keep before the world a "correct" attitude. We use it towards two nations who maintain all the courteous formalities of diplomacy, who do not contemplate war, but who watch each other with the unsleeping eye of jealous suspicion; their mutual action is correct. ["Hear, hear," and "Oh, oh."] I am not content with such a correct attitude. I should like the Government to have welcomed the representatives of our great self-governing Colonies, not only with that warm hospitality, which, of course, will be accorded; I should like them to have met in a sympathetic spirit, and that the Government should tell these great Colonies that on the question of preference which is their contribution towards the solution of this problem:—"There are difficulties in the way. Our system is different from yours. We do not propose to change it to carry out your scheme. You do not ask us to change it. Let us see if we can carry out preference under these conditions. No doubt it will be carrried out very imperfectly, no doubt it will not reach the height of your desires, your wishes, but we feel so strongly that the method you suggest for cementing the different parts of the Empire ought not to be rejected hastily, that at all events we will enter into discussion with you in the earnest hope and desire to find something in the nature of a solution that will be satisfactory to all." The Government have rejected that course, by their decision they will induce the House to reject that course, and by so doing they will do their best to atrophy, to destroy, this sentiment which may be difficult to embody in practical legislation, but nevertheless, whether easy or difficult, is the one bond on which we rely to keep together the different parts of this great Empire. I profoundly regret the line the Government have taken and hope even now they may see fit to make some modification in their declared attitude.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS (Reading) said he did not think that any complaint would be made against the Opposition for having brought forward this Motion. They on the Ministerial benches did not complain of the tone of the speeches of hon. Gentlemen opposite; certainly they had no fault to find with the tactics of the Opposition in bringing forward the Motion which the House was now discussing. Before he proceeded to deal with the Amendment he wished to refer to the complaint of the Leader of the Opposition that the Government had for five or six hours refrained from answering the arguments put forward by the Opposition. They did answer them, and he would remind the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition when he made that reproach that this Government did not run away as did the last on several occasions when fiscal reform was brought before the House, but remained to answer the arguments and challenge a division upon the Amendment. He might add also that this Government were in the position of having submitted this question to the country. If therefore comparison was to be made between the attitude of the present Government and the last in relation to the manner in which the fiscal question was treated when it came before the House of Commons, the present Government would not lose. He was sorely tempted by some of the observations of the right hon. Gentleman to wander into the by-paths and side issues traversed by the Leader of the Opposition; but he preferred to deal immediately with the question before the House. It was important that they should not forget—that hon. Gentlemen on the other side of the House should not forget—that in recording their vote in favour of the Amendment, they were pledging themselves to the taxation of food. [Opposition cries of "No."] He heard two or three hon. Gentlemen on the Opposition Benches, sitting very quietly in a corner, denying that proposition. He was surprised, if it was true that the Amendment did not involve the taxation of food, that the retort was not much more emphatic. If it were true that preference did not mean that food must be taxed, then he must ask what became of the policy of the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham. Might he ask, with any hope of receiving an answer from the Leader of the Opposition, was the right hon. Gentleman in favour of the taxation of food? Was he in favour of the policy of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham? Did the right hon. Gentleman now approve of a system of Colonial preference based upon the taxation of food? [An Hon. Member on the Opposition Benches: "That is begging the question."] Begging the question! It was begging the question not to answer it! The position which the Liberal Party had always maintained, and maintained now, was that recourse could not be had to the system proposed in the Amendment, without imposing a tax on food. If not on food, then the only alternative was to impose a tax on raw materials. But was there any Member in the House, or any person in the country, who suggested that raw materials should be taxed in order that we might give a preference to the Colonies?

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): Is flour a raw material?

*Mr. RUFUS ISAACS said he observed that one hon. Member on the Opposition Benches ventured an interposition suggesting a defence of such a proposal. Nobody knew better than the hon. Member how difficult it was to draw a line between semi-manufactured articles and raw materials. And nobody knew better than he that it would be impossible to ask any Government of this country to endorse a policy of imposing a tax on raw materials. But he certainly knew that the hon. Member for Sheffield saw in this Amendment a means, a step, to obtain that for which he had worked for long years, viz., the taxation of imported manufactured articles. But the Colonies to whom it was proposed to give a preference did not send their manufactured articles to this country. The result was that, looked at from any point of view, and with the greatest desire to meet the views of the Colonial Premiers—the desire of all Members of the House—the real difference between them was whether the proposed method for giving preference was possible. He desired to give credit to hon. Members on the Opposition Benches for not repeating the suggestion—now that the election was over—that they on the Liberal side were neglectful of the interests of the Colonies. And it was for the reason that the election had taken place they could not discuss this question with the Colonial Premiers. The difference between the Opposition and the Ministerial Party was that the latter refused to consider the possibility of preference involving taxation of food after the verdict given at the general election by the people, who would have none of it. They believed that that decision of the people was right politically and economically. He joined issue with the Leader of the Opposition when that right hon. Gentleman said, and repeated more than once, that they, on the Liberal Benches, refused to discuss any question of preference with the Colonial Premiers. Surely the right hon. Gentleman was not right in that contention. They did not refuse to discuss the question; they were desirous of discussing every question that might be brought forward at the Colonial Conference; but what the Government could not discuss was any suggested plan to draw the bonds of Empire closer by means of a preferential tariff which, not only according to the Liberal Party, but according to the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, could not be imposed without the taxation of the food of the people. It was idle for any hon. Member opposite to shut his eyes to this conclusion. He waited, and a good many Members on the Opposition side of the House waited also, for the words from the Leader of the Opposition, which were to give, after many attempts to obtain it, a plain answer to a plain question, but the right hon. Gentleman had left them in the same state of ignorance as before.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): Not at all.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS asked if the noble Lord understood that the right hon. Gentleman was in favour of the taxation of food?

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH: No.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS said he would put the question in another form which might admit of an answer: Was the Leader of the Opposition, like the noble Lord and other hon. Members beside him, in favour of the taxation of corn? The position was now as before the general election. The Leader of the Opposition, in the course of his speech, had asked, "Have they learned nothing; has time taught them nothing?" He would retort by asking whether the result of the tactics of the last two or three years had taught the Opposition nothing. There might possibly be some hon. Members who thought that he was attaching undue importance to this question, but he would prove that they were mistaken by referring them to the words of the right hon. Gentleman who was, in the first instance, responsible for the proposition now before the House. He urged those Members of the Opposition who still wished to refrain from pledging themselves in any way upon the taxation of corn to pause and consider whither they were being led. The Motion ran: "But this House humbly expresses regret that no reference is made in Your Majesty's Speech to the approaching Colonial Conference, and to the opportunity thereby offered for promoting freer trade within the Empire, and closer commercial relations with the Colonies on a preferential basis." Had it stopped at the words, "closer commercial relations with the Colonies," he could better understand the position of some hon. Members on the Opposition side, but when they had inserted in the Amendment the last four words, "on a preferential basis," it appeared to him that they were taking one further step along the path of protection. They would, if this were assented to, have at last taken the step which would compel them to tax corn to provide the preference which they desired to establish. The mover and seconder of the Amendment had used some arguments in favour of a preference to be founded on existing duties, and the Leader of the Opposition also suggested that we might make a beginning with those at present imposed. The same observation had fallen from the hon. Member for Dulwich. But let them imagine going to a Conference to discuss a preference founded on duties on the present basis. They were, it appeared, to begin with a preferential duty on Australian and Cape wine. Had the hon. Gentleman considered what relation the total imports of wine from Australia bore to the whole of their products which were sent to this country? Was it not an insignificant portion? He thought it was less than a twenty-first part. [MR. BONAR LAW: A twentieth.] Well, he would not dispute with the hon. Gentleman. At all events it was an insignificant proportion. Was it any use discussing the question on that basis? Then with reference to sugar it had escaped observation that the Sugar Convention would prevent this country from giving a preference on sugar. He really would not pause seriously to discuss dried fruit, but when they came to the question of tea, which was of importance, he would ask if the Members of the Opposition had forgotten India. They must bear in mind that our imports of tea in the main came from India. Further, he might ask whether those who were proposing that we should discuss with our Colonies the giving of this preference had considered the question raised by the most interesting speech of the hon. Member for Leicester. He had waited with great interest to hear what the Leader of the Opposition had to say in regard to that speech, because although he differed from the right hon. Gentleman, he was most interested in all his arguments. He was also most anxious to hear what answer that most able exponent of tariff reform the hon. Member for Dulwich would make upon this subject. Like the Leader of the Opposition, the hon. Member referred to it, but did not answer it. Let hon. Members reflect what it was desired to do. It was that we should impose a tariff to give a preference to our Colonies in order that they might send to us more food stuffs and raw materials. Yet at this very time, it appeared, there was an agitation proceeding in Australia with the avowed purpose of preventing the export of raw material, which was what we desired to attract by means of these proposals. He desired to call the attention of the House to the important aspect of this problem from another standpoint. It was said that the basis of the proposals of hon. Gentlemen opposite was to put taxation on food, but how did the Opposition propose to deal with the Colonies which did not send food stuffs to this country but sent only raw material? He had heard that question put several times, notably by the late Chancellor of the Exchequer, in the course of the recent campaign, but neither inside nor outside the House had anyone ventured to give an answer to it. It was like the question in regard to the taxation of corn. They could not get an answer. As to the taxation of food, he quite admitted that it was the right hon. Gentleman's Party tactics which prevented him answering that question. They all knew the difficulty which the right hon. Gentleman was in and sympathised with him deeply. To answer the question as to raw materials, however, would not involve the Leader of the Opposition in tactical difficulties, and therefore he thought they might be told how it was proposed to deal with such colonies. Let them take, for example, the South African Colonies, which, as far as they knew, could not be described as the most contented of our Colonies. From South Africa we received substantially nothing but raw material, and how did the Opposition propose to deal with it in order to give it a preference? The Transvaal, the Orange River Colony, Natal and the Cape Colony would complain if preferences which were of no benefit to them were given to the advantage of Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. It appeared to him that they would not draw the Colonies of the Empire together by means of this course, but would run some risk of loosening the bonds. They would sow the seed of disunion and jealousy among the Colonies in the negotiations which must necessarily take place when a Conference met for the purpose of arranging tariffs, and each Colony would naturally strive to obtain the best arrangement it could in its own interests. In relation to the Canadian preference of 1897, the figures quoted must not be taken as reliable proof of its value, but they must remember that during the period from 1897 the United States had done better relatively than we in Canada. It had been said that we would draw our corn from Canada by means of this preference, but there was one item which did not appear to have entered into consideration in relation to this matter. The hon. Member for North-West Lanark had told the House that for some weeks during the year Canada was not able to ship her corn, but for some six months of the year she could not depend upon shipping from her seaports. During the six winter months, the corn was transmitted through the United States and shipped at United States ports. No doubt there was an inter-Colonial route which would take it to Halifax, but that was of little value, because it was a longer and more expensive route. During the winter months, therefore, the corn had to be transmitted through the United States—and, let it be remembered, through the United States, in bond. Had those who advocated these preferences considered what the effect would be on the United States of this proposed preference to Canada? Had they considered what the United States would have to say with reference to the corn passing through the United States in bond which was so seriously to compete with and hinder the exports of their own country. Did anyone in the House imagine that the United States would allow that corn to go through in bond? And if they did not, how was it proposed that we should import it at anything like the same rate? This point applied not only to corn. Other products had to go through the State of Maine in bond. This was a matter worthy of serious consideration. The House must remember also that the slight trivial advantages which we could now offer to the

Colonies as a basis for preference might have the effect of causing difficulties with a number of foreign countries. He did not mean that that was a conclusive reason why there should not be a preference, but he did say that before we endorsed a policy of this character we must count the cost. We must carefully give weight to such considerations. For instance, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, and Portugal would all be affected by the proposed preferential tariff on wine. Before we entered into this policy for such a trifling advantage to Australia and Cape Colony, we should bear in mind that we might endanger our commercial relations with foreign countries or at least make them more difficult. The hon. Member for Dulwich had said that the question was, was Colonial preference worth having? That was not, he submitted, the real question. They must add, "on a preferential basis," and, in view of what those added words comprehended, the answer must be "No." This matter had been fairly and fully discussed and put to the country by both Parties at the last general election. What they now wanted to know was whether there had been a change of policy or method—was the Opposition as a Party now proposing to adopt the policy and the method advocated by the Member for West Birmingham? To that apparently they were to have no answer. But whether hon. Members intended to follow the policy of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham or not, they were committing themselves irretrievably to preference on the basis of the taxation of food. The general view of Members on the Ministerial side of the House was that the Colonies did not demand and did not desire that we should impose this tax upon the food of the population of this country for the purpose of giving a preference to the Colonies. It could not be disputed that if a tax was put upon corn it would tend to make corn dearer, and it was not by such methods as those that we would bind our Colonies to us. The Colonies did not expect it. They knew too well what the answer must be. It was urged that we should lose our commercial supremacy, and that foreign countries would obtain our trade with the Colonies, but it had been well said by Mr. Reid that England gained her supreme commercial position, not by barricading her ports, but by proving herself superior by technical skill, in manufacturing better, and in knowledge of business methods, and she must ultimately rely on those weapons for her success if she was to retain her high position. He would conclude by saying that the last weapon that England ought to be called upon to use in the battle for her Colonies was the imposition of a tax on the food of the poor of this country.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) said it was no disparagement to the hon. and learned Gentleman who had just sat down to say that the arguments he had used were not strictly original. They had been the stock arguments of the orators of the Liberal Party for the last ten years. The hon. and learned Member had complained that no new arguments had been adduced in favour of this Amendment. It was no disparagement of the hon. and learned Gentleman or of his great and recognised ability to say that he (Sir Gilbert Parker) had listened in vain for some new argument from the Liberal side against it. The hon. and learned Gentleman was perfectly definite. He said, "Upon this ground we stand. We will have no tax on food;" that was to say no tax of any kind on corn. The main point of the hon. and learned Gentleman's argument was that he had not an open mind. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies had said frankly enough that the Government had not an open mind upon this question. The hon. and learned Gentleman who had just sat down had also said that if Natal, Cape Colony, or some other Colony did not get the same advantage as Canada, irritation would be produced, and they would be blamed for not giving more; and because they could not get all that was obtained by some other country more developed, therefore they would be dissatisfied. But one would think that this question had only just been raised. One would imagine that South Africa, or Canada, or Australia had not thought over the question. They had been thinking it over for twenty years, and had been acting upon it for ten years. Did they suppose that any delegate or Minister who attended the approaching Conference would not come with an open mind, and also with a full understanding of the difficulties that might be in the way of England's giving preference to the Colonies? It was said that South Africa would not benefit. When South Africa produced both raw material and food supplies sufficient for her own use, then would come the question whether she was going to benefit largely from any preference given by England. South Africa could do little for herself as yet, except in the matter of gold; there she did a great deal for us. But there was a time when she was building up a trade in wine, which the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean despised because of its smallness. In 1859, when Mr. Gladstone made his treaty with France, preference was taken away from Cape wines. He thought about £200,000 worth was imported at that time. Since the preference was taken away the imports into Great Britain had dropped at once to £17,000, and to day they represented about £1,000. Suppose the preference had been kept on until this day, would we not now have perhaps £1,000,000 worth of wine coming from Cape Colony? Might he make one little suggestion with regard to the speech of the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean? Everyone knew what an authority the right hon. Baronet was upon Colonial affairs. One of his earliest remembrances, when he was able to take an interest in political or worldly affairs, was reading "Problems of Greater Britain." The right hon. Baronet had great hope then, but he did not think he had as great hope now. There was nothing throughout the right hon. Baronet's speech yesterday but a note of depressing hesitancy. He could find nothing in these proposals for preference which could possibly be of any benefit to the Colonies or to ourselves. The right hon. Baronet had done a thing which one would have thought to his logical mind would seem not quite right. He had dragged into the matter the question of the Consultative Committee. He had said that Canada did not want it. But Canada was not the whole of the Colonies; and what in the world had that to do with this question of commercial union on a preferential basis? Then the right hon. Baronet had also said that the Colonial Premiers would not press upon the Conference the matter of preference, and that there was not a demand from England for preference. Who did not know that? He was sure that the right hon. Baronet did not think that there was a single Member of the Opposition who supposed that any Colonial Minister was coming to this country to hold a blunderbuss at the heads of delegates. The right hon. Baronet had asked what possible good could come to Australia from any preference. It had been thought that the preference on wine would be of no value, and also that it would be no good even if we placed a preference on wheat, which he had advocated. A shilling would be enough. One-eighth of a cent per bushel would be sufficient to give Canada the advantage of this market. A shilling tax on corn, which was kept on as a registration tax by a Radical Government, would be sufficient to give Canada and Australia all they wanted, as concerned wheat. The right hon. Baronet had repeatedly said that it was no good giving Australia a preference on wheat. He differed from him entirely. Did not the right hon. Baronet know that the wheat production of Australia had steadily increased? Canada produced 90,000,000 bushels last year. Australia in 1905 produced over 54,000,000 bushels. He had taken the trouble to find out what the wheat production of Australia had been for some years back. He went back to the year 1897, when the total wheat yield of the Commonwealth was 20,000,000 bushels. In 1898 it wa 28,000,000 bushels; and now they came to the point on which the right hon. Gentleman based his argument, 1903, when the yield was 12,000 000 bushels; in 1904, 74,000,000; in 1905, 54,000,000. As to 1906, he did not know the exact figures, but he knew that they exported aud sold more wheat than was mentioned here as the total wheat yield of Australia. That showed how thoroughly unsound the right hon. Gentleman's argument was. He would take them back twenty years further, and they would find exactly the same thing, though there was one year of fluctuation in which the yield dropped tremendously. The same remark applied to wool. Compared with those of Canada, the agricultural possibilities of

Australia in one good year were immensely superior. They would have their two and three crops a year. The agricultural possibilities of Australia, in average years, were, to say the least, quite as good as those of Canada. Australia was built up by her wool production, by her wheat production, and by her gold production. He asked the right hon. Baronet whether on reconsideration he did not see that in Australia a shilling registration tax, or a shilling preference, would have a stimulating effect on the supply which he had previously disregarded as unimportant. The hon. Member for Leicester, who knew Australia and who knew the Colonies, had made the most astonishing statement that he had ever heard from a representative of labour. He had said that it was no good their attempting to do anything with Australia, because she was going to prevent the export of her raw material. A more monstrous travesty of labour principles he had never heard. If Australian labour people meant that—and he did not believe they did—then the doom of Australia was sealed. Why, the production of raw material was the only one in a new country, in its initial stages, which could possibly give food to the worker and work to the maker. Yes; but the hon. Gentleman, with political sagacity, used it as an argument to depreciate the preference which they were advocating. It was an unsound argument; it was absolutely contradictory of all the principles of labour. They knew as well as anybody in the world that Australia would not put an export tax upon anything which she produced. Let them take the United States; under their Constitution it was impossible to put an export tax upon raw material, so strongly did that democracy feel with regard to raw material, because they knew that in their initial stages their whole salvation depended upon the products of the soil, and the export of products of the soil. He ventured to say that there was a way to get an advantage in the Australian and in the Canadian markets. The hon. Gentleman who had just sat down had depreciated the preference given by Canada, and had said it was not important. The hon. Member for Gloucester, who knew and had studied the question, and who was concerned to give an honest and unequivocal opinion—he did not say that anybody did not give an honest opinion—stated the other day with perfect truth that the advantage in preference to the English manufacturer was great, because the goods purchased consisted of partially or wholly manufactured goods. The hon. Member for Reading, when he made his argument, did not tell them that what Canada exported through the United States was chiefly raw material and a few manufactured articles.

*MR. RUFUS ISAACS said the hon. Member was under a misapprehension. What he had pointed out was that the figures which had been quoted by the hon. Member opposite did not warrant the deductions which he had sought to draw from them, because the years from 1897 had been specially good years in Canada.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said that that surely was not an argument. Did the hon. Member think that the good years began in 1897? No; he could tell them when the good years began. He remembered when in Canada they could buy a pair of chickens for 1s., a pound of butter for 3d., a dozen eggs for 2d., and the best beef for a 1d. and 2d. a pound. What a Paradise indeed for the poor man. Yes, but the poor man had not money with which to buy. The upward trend in Canada began in 1885; when the Pacific railway was constructed, there began that upward tendency in the trade of Canada which had led to great prosperity. It was true that Sir Wilfred Laurier gave preference in order to induce greater trade within the Empire, but he had no idea of breaking down Canadian tariffs, and Sir Wilfred was as good a free trader to-day as he himself was. At one time he was a free trader himself, but what converted him was writing free trade articles for the Sydney *Morning Herald*. He would like for a moment to analyse the assertion made by the hon. Member for Reading that if we put on a tax up would go the cost to the consumer. New South Wales was a free trade Colony up to the year 1895. In that year a duty of 2d. per lb. was put on butter which was then 1s. per lb., and the price of butter in New South Wales in 1897 was 1s. per lb. duty free. In 1895 the price of cheese was 8d. per lb., when a duty of 2d. per lb. was upon it. In 1897 the price of cheese was 8d. per lb. duty free. The price of bacon in 1895 was 7½d. with a duty of 2d. per lb., and the price in 1897 was 8d. per lb. duty free. Rice was 2½d. per lb. in 1895, with a 60s. duty, and in 1897, with no duty, it was still 2½d. He had twenty illustrations and he had only quoted these to show that there were other considerations which entered into the question. It was difficult to find out who would pay a shilling registration tax on corn, and we were not able to find it out when a shilling duty on corn was imposed a few years ago. A good many considerations entered into the minds of shippers and railway people which disposed of that shilling, and he believed the price of bread did not rise. It was said that the people of this country would not have a duty on corn. His opinion was that they would have a great deal when they understood all sides of the question. The people of this country might be slow to move and think, but their judgment could be trusted in the long run. Did hon. Members think that the judgment at the last election on this question, complicated as it was by other issues, was a final one? He would remind the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, who had spoken in a peroration of lurid splendour concerning the antagonism of this country towards colonial preference, that 11,000,000 of our colonists accepted the principle of preference, put it into action, and asked this country to give a preference which would give the greatest good to the greatest number. What tariff reformers were aiming at was to prevent the displacement of our trade in Colonial markets. In Canada any further displacement had been successfully prevented and it was proposed to do the same with Australia. In 1894 the United Kingdom had 71 per cent. of the export trade to Australia, British possessions 11 per cent. and foreign countries 16 per cent. In 1905 the United Kingdom had 57 per cent. of the export trade to Australia, British possessions had 13 per cent. and foreign countries 30 per cent. So that since the year 1894 England had lost 14 per cent. of her export trade to Australia, and exactly 14 per cent. had been put upon the export trade of foreign countries to that Colony. The Australian wool trade could not be stimulated, because the area for sheep grazing was practically all taken up and therefore further industrial development must lie in other directions. So much had Australians recognised this fact that they had not sought to develop their wool-growing trade, but the development of dairy products had been enormous. There were now employed in purely agricultural and dairy occupations in Australia more people than were employed in pastoral or wool-growing occupations. The House ought to approach this question with the intention of not disregarding the opinions of men who for twenty years had been thinking the subject out. Tariff reformers asked that the advanage we already enjoyed in Colonial markets should be still further developed. He desired a preference given to the Colonies which would enable us to have a real union, which could never exist so long as the question of pounds, shillings, and pence entered into consideration. It had been suggested that preference would cause friction on the part of the Colonies and foreign nations, and that India would be punished by Russia. This very controversy started upon just such a situation with a foreign country. Canada not long ago demanded that the Treaty with Belgium and Germany should be denounced, and she forthwith put a tax upon German sugar because Canadian goods had been penalised in the German market. The result was that not a single pound of German sugar came into Canada the year after, and every pound of sugar imported by Canada came from British Colonies. In that way Canada was able to defeat Germany and at the same time secured a great advantage for British Colonies. We need not fear any punishment from foreign countries; they were only too anxious to come into our markets. In Canada and Australia, and by-and-by in South Africa, we should have greater markets for our goods if we gave the preference suggested, no matter how small. He believed that through such commercial action would steadily develop and grow up a warmer and heartier feeling between the Colonies and the Mother Country. He did not think there was a Member of this House who, if he thought a benefit could be gained by a preference of a shilling, and if it did not raise the cost of the food of the people of this country, would object to it. He did not believe a single Member objected to preference on principle. All that hon. Members objected to was that it would raise the cost of the food of the people. But supposing that he could show the hon. and learned Member for Reading that a shilling tax did not necessarily raise the cost of the food of the people, would he then take so almost violent an attitude as he had taken to-day? Would any Member of this House do so? He believed not. He believed honestly that if every Member of this House attended the Conference, if there was open discussion, and if each side presented its case simply with the desire of presenting it and not of overcoming the other, there would result a change of opinion in the minds of a great many Members which they themselves could scarcely believe. The idea which the supporters of the Amendment aimed at was one which ought to commend itself to the mind of every patriot and citizen. At any rate hon. Members would give them credit for wishing, not to hurt, but to do good to the people of this country—credit for endeavouring to keep their eyes open, to see what were the needs of the moment, and to adapt themselves to present conditions instead of to the conditions of ten, fifteen, or twenty years ago. This movement which had been started in favour of closer union with the Colonies on a preferential basis would not end with this session, or next session, or with the session after that. The friends of the movement were concerned to educate; they were concerned to convince and they would use every effort to convince. Their opponents wished them to drop the subject. [MINISTERIAL cries of "No."] He did not suggest that with their diminished numbers in this House the supporters of the Government need be afraid of any attack from them, but Ministerialists thought the subject should be dropped because they believed that those who were in favour of fiscal reform had been beaten. Tariff reformers, however, did not believe that they had been beaten. They had every confidence that the agitation would continue, and they had faith that the people of this country, sooner or later, and perhaps sooner than many hon. Members thought, would come over to their views, and accept the principle that preferential relations with the Colonies would be the basis of larger prosperity and of a healthier condition of British trade.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): The hon. Member for Gravesend always speaks with a good deal of knowledge of all Colonial subjects, but I think he made one mistake. He addressed his arguments to hon. Members on this side of the House. The first thing he ought to do is to convert his own leader. We have had an exceedingly interesting speech from the Leader of the Opposition to-day. He complains, first of all, of the arrangements made by the Government for conducting the debate. He complains that no one got up from this bench until late yesterday. I remember a debate on the fiscal question when the whole of the Government of the day ran away and did not reply at all. The right hon. Gentleman the other day, alluding to some speeches by members of the Government on the fiscal question, said that he did not know where he was. Well, I venture to say that after his speech to-day no one else knows where he is.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Oh.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: If the right hon. Gentleman is perfectly clear as to where his leader is on this subject, perhaps he will tell us whether he is in favour of a tax on food or not. Is he in favour of the proposals of the right hon. Member for West Birmingham? It would be interesting to find that out. To-night he says, supporting a Motion in favour of Colonial preference, "All we ask is that the possibility of some fiscal discussion on the basis of our present system of taxation should not be rejected." Is that really all that it comes to, this great Motion in favour of preferential arrangements with the Colonies? Is the whole demand that we should admit discussion of preference on our present basis of taxation at the Colonial Conference? Of course, at the Conference there will be the utmost liberty to discuss any question affecting the Colonies and the Mother Country. What is the suggestion that the right hon. Gentleman makes? He does not say a word on the taxation of wheat or meat. He confines his arguments in favour of preference to the suggestion of the hon. Member for Durham—some arrangement about wine, tobacco, apples, and dried fruit. Is that really the only point in difference between the Opposition and the Government? Is that the whole case for Colonial preference—a mere rearrangement of the wine duties in favour of Australia and of the tax on dried fruit? Is that what the Tariff Commission has been at all this time? Sitting at great expense for weeks, months, and years simply to reduce the duty on Tintara; to found the Empire on pippins! If that is what all this controversy is to end in, I really do not think it is treating the House of Commons respectfully.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: Not with your misrepresentations.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Where am I misrepresenting the right hon. Gentleman? He first quoted the hon. Member for Durham and said that the hon. Gentleman had only proposed a readjustment of the existing duties. Well these are existing duties — tobacco, dried fruit, Australian wine. The right hon. Gentleman never spoke of India from first to last. The idea that you are going to the Colonies to ask them for substantial concessions—for that is the idea—of 25 or 33 per cent. on their tariffs merely on the basis of a readjustment of duties that do not concern one-hundredth part of our whole trade with the Colonies, would really be an insult. That is what it comes to. If I misrepresent the right hon. Gentleman in saying that all he suggests is a preferential treatment on the basis of existing duties, I should like to be corrected.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR: I will explain. The proposition I laid before the House was that, for reasons I gave, it was of the most vital importance from the point of view of Imperial sentiment to try to meet the one proposition that the Colonies have made to increase Imperial unity; that that could be done, though very imperfectly, on the basis of present taxation; and that the attempt should be made. I said that I did not think the Colonies were asking us to alter our system; and that I should therefore meet them at this Conference on the present basis. But I added that in my view the demands made on the financial resources of the country would compel us to widen our basis of taxation; and that I should give the same advice with regard to the wider basis of taxation as with regard to the present narrow basis of taxation, and so make the best of it in cultivating Imperial sentiment among the Colonies.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: In what particular have I misrepresented the right hon. Gentleman? He has put in a much better way what I was labouring to lay before the House. He would confine the whole transaction to our existing duties. Has he, in that explanation, committed himself in either way on the question of taxing meat or wheat? That is the one thing he has avoided. The speeches in support of this proposal by hon. Members behind him all ended up by the recommendation of the taxation of wheat and meat. But the right hon. Gentleman has carefully avoided committing himself at all on that proposition. If Australia wanted a readjustment of the wine duties, I have no doubt that the Government would consider that question just as they would if any other country asked for the same thing. That is a question which of course we should discuss with a Colony as we should with any one else. [Cries of "No."] But I will consider the case that has been made for this Amendment. The right hon. Gentleman did not attempt to make a case at all. He avoided it from the first; India he did not touch. He knows perfectly well that India has not only not made us an offer, but has refused to consider the proposal at all. She considers that any sort of preferential arrangement would do her harm and involve her in difficulties with some of her best customers, while it would not do us any good. The result is that India has absolutely refused to enter into any discussion of the question at all. Therefore, we are confined purely to the proposal whether we should enter into a preferential arrangement on the basis of the taxation of food—of the only commodities with which the Colonies supply us. All those commodities mentioned by the hon. Member for Durham will be of very little use if you want a real business arrangement in which you ask for a substantial concession. It would be using a whale to catch a sprat. They would want something really more substantial than the little sprat of a proposal which came from the right hon. Gentleman just now about wines and things of that sort. And may I point out that the whole of Canada, New Zealand, and half of South Africa would not come into an arrangement based on these little commodities at all? New Zealand does not grow tobacco or tea or wine. Half South Africa, the whole of Rhodesia and the Transvaal, would be out of it. Therefore, you have got to deal with it on another basis, and it is only on that basis on which you can contemplate, if it is to be contemplated at all, the question of colonial preference. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham put it very clearly in his great speech at Bristol about a week before the general election. This is what he said, and if the right hon. Gentleman the Member for East Worcestershire is going to follow me, it would be very interesting to know whether he agrees with this pronouncement now. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "We are agreed upon retaliation, we are agreed upon preference. I will add to that—because I am determined to withhold nothing in my appeal to thec ountry—you cannot have retaliation—and the more you look at it the more it will be clear to you—without a general tariff. You cannot have preference—that is to say, you cannot secure for your kinsmen abroad the advantages which will accrue to their trade, their ever-increasing trade, unless you think in the same spirit, unless you will treat them a little better than your rivals and competitors, unless you will give to them, in return for a preference on your manufactures, a preference on their chief product, even though that product may be described as a principal part of the food of this country."

And here is a word which I think must really have been intended for the right hon. Gentleman the Leader of the Opposition—

> "It is useless to try to hide yourselves in the sand."

And then he goes on to say that it is useless to try to avoid misrepresentation by trying to hide what your policy is. That is what the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham said, and to-night the right hon. Gentleman opposite has attempted—I will not say to hide what his policy really is, because I really do not know whether he is committed to the taxation of wheat and of meat, and I am sure no one sitting behind him can tell either. This debate was not intended to influence the House or the country. It was got up actually, I believe, for the conversion, the conviction, or the committal of the right hon. Gentleman, and if I may respectfully do so, I congratulate him upon the very skilful way he has eluded the snare set by very ingenious fowlers sitting around him. The right hon. Gentleman has not committed himself, but, at any rate, the bulk of his Party have done so. Theyhave committed themselves to this declaration of the Member for West Birmingham. The right hon. Gentleman himself is still free. Therefore, we have got to consider the wider proposition, which is really the only businesslike proposition left to consider. The other is trifling with the Colonies, trifling with us, and trifling with the country. What is that proposition? It is that we should put a duty on corn and on meat with a view to making a deduction on all those commodities that come from our self-governing Colonies. India is outside. India makes no offer, she is satisfied with the present arrangement, she has protested against anything of the kind, and we have no right to force it upon her. What do we stand to gain by it? In the first place, who asks for it? We have heard a good deal about the offer from the Colonies, and during the last few years we have heard that this offer was urgent. We are constantly told—"Here is an offer which is made to you, made probably for the last time. Hear the voice of the Colonies. If you do not do it now, it may be too late." Really, on going into a tariff reform meeting, to hear the language used you might think you had stumbled into a revivalist meeting. I will say this for the right hon. Gentleman, that he never adopted that tone. He said, "There is no hurry." He said, "Let us eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die." He never did it, but that is the sort of tone, less urgent, less insistent, that we have heard in the course of this debate. Who is it that makes the demand? Somebody last night quoted, I think, Mr. Fielding. Well, he could not quote a higher authority. But Mr. Fisher is another very important member of the Canadian Government. He represents the farmers in Canada, and surely they are the people who are more interested in this question than anybody else. If anybody wanted preference it would be the farmers of Canada. This is what Mr. Fisher says—I quote it from *The Times*:

"It was a calumny to say that, unless Canadian products were granted a preference in the English market, Canada would be liable to break away from the Empire."

I am glad hon. Members agree. I thought this preferential duty was essential to bind the Colonies to us, but that argument has gone. Mr. Fisher continued—

"The object is to give Canadian food products an advantage in the English market. If any people were to make such a demand, it would be the Canadian farmers who were producing and selling these products. But I say, as Minister of Agriculture, that the Canadian farmers are not interested. In this I represent the feeling of the Canadian farmers. We farmers of Canada want no preference in the English market. Why it is that we as farmers want no preference? England, under existing conditions, takes and absorbs everything in the nature of food products we can send. She opens her ports to us, so we are able to sell everything there that we have to sell, and sell it at profitable prices. And if we do not send more it is because the productive capacity of the agricultural population of Canada is not able to produce it. There has been no check in the export of those articles to England. The farmers of Canada are not worrying about preference for their food products, and if they are not worrying, there is no necessity for other people to worry."

But why do they worry? The farmers of Canada do not worry about it. They do not want this preference; they are satisfied with the market that is made for them.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: What did the Prime Minister say?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: In every Government I know of, except the last one, Ministers always agreed with their Prime Minister, and when Mr. Fisher makes a declaration of that sort as Minister for Agriculture I assume he is making it with the full assent of his chief.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): His opinion was challenged in the House of Commons. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Order."]

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: His opinion was challenged in the House of Commons. Well, you have got a Rump of protectionists there who are constantly trying to worry the Prime Minister. They were hopelessly beaten at the last election in Canada, and, after all, Mr Fisher is speaking on behalf of the majority of the people. There is no demand, therefore, from the Canadian farmers, and rightly so. I am not one of those who say that Canadian preference has not been a great advantage to this country—as well as to Canada. But it has been a greater advantage to Canada than it has been to us. [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh."] I will give figures. I am not challenging the fact that it is an advantage. If you get a country that will give a preferential advantage in its markets, of course it is an advantage. It is absurd to deny it. I do not think it is a debateable point. But it has been an advantage to Canada. Our exports to Canada have gone up from £6,000,000 to £12,000,000 in round numbers since we got the preference, but their exports to us have gone up from £13,000,000 to £26,000,000 as the result of preference. Why? It is the natural result of preference. It is the natural result of freedom of trade, and, if they got rid of the duties altogether I have no doubt the business between the two countries would increase still more. If an abatement of 33 per cent. makes such an improvement as that, why, if they had no duties at all, the business would be trebled or quadrupled. Take what has happened since then. We practically buy 92 per cent. of their wheat. How can you improve upon that? Take the cheese that is produced in Canada. I am not sure about the other dairy products, but I believe it is the fact that practically the whole of the exportation of cheese is purchased by this country. How can you improve upon that by any system of preference? What was the proposal made last night? The hon. Member for North West Lanark, in a very able speech, put it quite frankly. He said the Canadians get less by 8½d. a quarter for their wheat than the Americans do; we pay them 8½d. less a quarter for their wheat than we pay the Americans, and it is plain that that is due to climatic reasons. The rivers were frozen, so they could not bring the stuff to England in time. He said, "How long do you think the Canadian farmer will stand this? You have got to make it up." Well, how are you going to make it up? Preference will not thaw the rivers. The only way you could make it up would be this—by putting 2s., say, on United States wheat the Canadian could sell his wheat to us, but you put 1s. 6d. on the price. This 8½d. he could then pocket and make another 10d. out of the transaction. Well, that is the transaction. I would not call it a business proposition, but, at any rate, it is a proposition which is perfectly clear, and which you can meet. Then do we really stand to gain? We have gained a good deal in trade through preference, no doubt, because the reduction of duty has been an advantage; but I am not quite sure that all the gain of trade during the last few years with Canada is attributable to preference. There has been an enormous accession of prosperity during these years. It is very largely due to the fact that they have opened up those immense territories in the north-west, and also due to the fact that they have got a Liberal Government. That is by the way. At any rate, there has been an enormous increase of prosperity in Canada. They buy more from everybody, and certainly from the United States. The increase in their purchases from the United States has been, I should say, about twice as great as the increase in their purchases from us. [An OPPOSITION MEMBER: "No."] An hon. Member quarrels with that. The hon. Gentleman will agree to this, that there has been a greater increase in the purchases by Canada from the United States than from us. [An OPPOSITION MEMBER: "Not by percentage."] Oh, it is the old argument about percentage! But this is a question of the actual increase. If they bought 1 lb. at one time and bought 2 lb. ten years afterwards, there would be an increase of 100 per cent. but that is not the sort of increase that we have got to do with. But there has been a great increase. Why? Because of the great increase in the prosperity of Canada, and because of the opening up of these great territories in the north-west; that is the real reason. Well, supposing we put a duty on corn, who would benefit by it? The right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Birmingham made a calculation. He said that the total available trade of all the Colonies which we could possibly get under any system in addition to what we have got already is £30,000,000. There are a good many things that we cannot sell to the Colonies under any conditions. For instance, look at what they buy from the United States of America—raw cotton and iron, and we could not compete with them in anthracite coal. There are a good many commodities of that kind in which we could not compete with the United States of America. They are across the border. They run a truck across from a colliery not far distant from the frontier, and nothing would enable us to compete with the United States there, especially in the western parts. But the right hon. Gentleman said—

> "There are £30,000,000, at any rate, of goods which you might sell to them if you had a preferential tariff."

Well now, in the first place, would any tariff that you could reasonably expect to put on give us the whole of any trade? It is too much to expect. Take any tariff, even that of the United States of America, which is as high a tariff as you could contemplate; still goods do get in from this country. And therefore, if you put on a tariff and gave a preference, it does not mean that you would get the whole of the £30,000,000; and you certainly would not get it against the United States. Because one thing that the German prosperity has proved is—as hon. Members would see if they just looked at the figures—that the great advantage Germany has got over us is its central position in Europe. Nothing we could do would enable us to compete on equal terms with Germany in the countries that are contiguous. You just put your goods in a truck and run them across the border without unloading. All that sort of thing means far more than a tariff. The same thing applies to the United States of America and Canada. No preference that we could give would prevent the United States of America from beating us in selling certain commodities in Canada. And of course there is the great arrangement of trusts whereby this sort of thing goes on there: they sell rails in their own country at $27 or $28 a ton, but they have sold them in Canada at $20 a ton—that is a difference of $7 a ton. No preference could possibly cover that difference. Therefore we could not secure the whole of this £30,000,000. We mightget a certain part of it, but that is all. But what trade would you risk? The right hon. Gentleman in the course of his speech to-night talked of our being excluded from markets. He said there was a process of strangulation of our trade going on, and that what we had to look at was not actual facts, but tendencies. Well, let us look at the tendencies and the facts. In 1895 our total exports to foreign countries—not to the Colonies—of British produce was £156,000,000.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.): Does that include China and Egypt?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: Yes, I said foreign countries. I include all countries which you would not register as British possessions. Last year it was £254,000,000, an increase of £100,000,000 in the course of ten years, and that is what the right hon. Gentleman calls a slow process of strangulation! What is the matter with that tendency? It is an upward one. The tendency there is all right. Very well; but is it advisable for us to endanger the trade we have got with foreign countries, which is so enormous, and is greater than the trade of any other country in the world at the present moment—is it advisable to risk it on a precarious foundation, which would enable us probably to get one-half of the £30,000,000 which is available? That is the problem before us. I was appealed to repeatedly last night to treat this not as a Party question, but as a business proposition. I agree. It is a business proposition, although I observe that the right hon. Gentleman during the whole of this fiscal controversy has carefully avoided figures. I think he is very wise. I was looking through a volume of his speeches and his pamphlet within the past few days, and I could not detect a single figure from beginning to end, except in an appendix. At the same time, trade has a way of working out into figures which upset all your philosophies. And that is what we have got to consider here—what it is that we gain and what it is that we risk. Well, we risk, first of all, our trade with those other countries. You put 2s. on corn, but where does your corn come from? It comes not from the Colonies, but 70 per cent. of our wheat comes from foreign countries, 30 per cent. coming from British possessions, including India. What are the countries we draw our corn supply from? The United States of America, the Argentine Republic, and Russia. Well, the Argentine is one of our very best customers, and the custom of the Argentine is growing. Last year the goods which we sold to the Argentine amounted to £7,000,000 more than we sold to Canada. They had grown to £19,000,000. We have beaten the United States of America and Germany out of sight there, and the amount is growing year by year. After all, as my right hon. friend pointed out last night in the very powerful speech he made, we have great interests in the Argentine. We run everything. We have the docks, the railways, the waterworks, and we very largely run the country from a financial point of view. I am not sure that we have not greater financial interests in the Argentine than we have in Canada, and at any rate there is a greater prospect for our trade there than in Canada, and for a very good reason. You have not got a great manufacturing country right on the border of the Argentine, and the result of the contests of the last few years between various countries has proved that wherever we got away from boundaries we beat any and every competitor who came into the market. We cannot beat Germany in Austria or in Russia, I think, nor in the Netherlands, but we can beat her everywhere else. We beat her in the East, in the United States of America—we beat her everywhere. Well, what are we to do?

Here is the Argentine Republic, one of our best customers, getting a better customer every year. We are asked to put 2s. on her wheat and 5 per cent. on her meat; how long should we retain the custom of the Argentine Republic? Take the United States of America. The United States is a very good customer of ours. It is becoming a better customer. While doing its very best, I have no doubt, to oust a good many of our products, still she takes them, even tinplates of South Wales; they are selling about £600,000 worth to America. I think we increased by millions our sales last year to the United States of America, but that does not represent the whole of our trade to the United States. We carry 50 per cent. of all her oversea trade for her, and that is an enormous item in our business. The same thing applies to Russia. Russia is not a very great customer of our commodities. She buys about £9,000,000 worth of our goods, but we carry about 42 per cent. of her oversea trade. In the case of these three countries—excellent and growing customers of ours—we put 2s. against their goods; what would be the result? We hear a good deal of retaliation. Are we sure that our country is the only country that can retaliate? It is not for me to suggest what might be done, but I have seen it suggested what might happen. Are we quite sure that if we excluded United States wheat they would not retaliate—because that is what we are driving at by colonial preference. The object is to make an Empire that will produce everything for itself, and take nothing from the United States, nothing from the Argentine, and nothing from Russia. It is a deliberate policy to exclude the products of those great customers of ours. The United States is not the sort of country that takes a thing of that kind without an answer. Their policy is purely protectionist; they have deliberately gone in for that policy. Is that the policy hon. Gentlemen opposite advocate? [A VOICE: "No."] There is one hon. Member who is bold enough to say it is not. They certainly would hit our shipping, and hit it very hard. At the present moment they have under discussion the question of a subsidy for their shipping. We should provoke a Bill of that kind if we embarked upon a policy like this. It would be a disastrous policy. The hon. Member for Dulwich, in his able speech last night, said that in his judgment this resolution was merely a beginning. The real policy which proceeds from his speech and the speeches of hon. Gentlemen opposite is a policy of protection. To put colonial preference first is to my mind simply a guarantee that this country will become a purely protectionist country. The one great difficulty the protectionists have had to encounter up to the present is to induce the people of this country to tax their food. It would have been easier for them to persuade the people to put 10 per cent. on foreign manufactures; but they know perfectly well that they cannot do that without protecting the former. You cannot make your commodities dearer for the former without giving this protective duty as well, and therefore a tax on food is an inevitable corollary to anything in the nature of protection for your industry. Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen opposite say "We will not call it a tax on food; we will appeal to the Imperial sentiment of the people; we will call it Imperial preference." They know the people are at heart proud of this great Empire, and they hope to arouse their sentiment by saying "Will you make that sacrifice for the sake of the Empire?" The moment they do so this country will be a protectionist country for all purposes, not merely for food. Is it worth the risk? We may gain a share of the £30,000,000 worth of goods now sold by foreign countries to the Colonies. We may; but it is doubtful. We risk quarrelling with our best customers, and he is a foolish tradesman who circumscribes the number of his customers; the business of every trader is to widen the area of his custom and not to narrow it. We might endanger our shipping. And all for the sake of becoming a protectionist country, with a tax on our food, with increased prices on all our necessaries of life. Should we benefit our Colonies? Well, I think every business man would say that the most unwise thing a man can do in business is to mix up sentiment with business; it generally ends in destroying them both.

Let us consider this as a business proposition; it will be better for the Colonies, it will be better for us, it will be better for the Empire. We hear a good deal about all our industries, but never a word about our great shipping trade, which has been built upon free trade. What is happening to the shipping of other countries? I find that out of the tonnage that enters the ports of Russia about 90 per cent. is foreign. Out of the tonnage that enters the ports of the United States, in the oversea trade, about 80 per cent. is foreign. Sixty-three per cent. of the tonnage that enters the ports of France is foreign, and 50 per cent. of the tonnage in the oversea trade that enters the ports of Germany is foreign. In Great Britain only about 30 per cent. is foreign. Russia has the highest tariff of all, and only one out of every nine of her ships is Russian. The United States has the second highest tariff, and not one-third of the ships in the oversea trade that enter the ports of that country are American. The third highest is France, and she has got only 40 per cent. of the tonnage entering her ports. Germany, which has a lower tariff, has 50 per cent.; and Great Britain, with free trade, 63 per cent. of the tonnage entering her ports. Does not that show that in the building up of a great industry free trade is an essential element? This is a matter of the most vital importance to our people. If you tax food, even in the slightest degree, as my hon. friend the Under-Secretary for the Colonies pointed out in his eloquent speech last night, it is a serious matter for millions of our population. Canada is a prosperous community. In New Zealand and Australia, like all other great countries where you have an unlimited quantity of land available, where you have untapped resources, the population is a thriving one. I met the other day Sir John Gorst, who has just returned from New Zealand, where he has been representing with great distinction the British Government in the New Zealand Exhibition. He gave me a very glowing account of the state of things in New Zealand. It is a kind of paradise of labour—good wages, low rents, not very high rates, and the aged poor the honoured wards of the State. You get men going over to Canada from this country almost penniless and becoming considerable freeholders. I remember in crossing one of these prairies I met a man from West Birmingham. He was an artisan, and he extended to me his hospitality for the night. I am not sure that he would have done it now. He told me his story. He was an artisan and knew nothing about the land. But he had got about 300 acres of first-class corn-producing land, and he had what is called a very commodious lumber residence. He had just got in his wheat, and was looking forward to selling it in a few weeks and getting hundreds of pounds for it. The railway was two or three days' distance from there. He was getting old, and he was looking forward to selling his farm and retiring to the neighbourhood of West Birmingham, where, no doubt, he is a tariff reformer at the present moment. Suppose he had remained at home, or think of the condition of his associates who have not got a great freehold like this. Yet we are called upon to put a 2s. duty on corn for the purpose of subsidising the thriving community of New Zealand, or enriching and endowing these gentlemen farmers on the prairies of the West. Who asks for it? I never heard of a Colonial statesman who asked for it. Mr. Fisher says he does not ask for it; and the farmers do not. I venture to say that this Parliament, at any rate, a Parliament elected to redress the evils the people have endured too long, is not going to add any burden to the dreary catalogue of their wrongs.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.): I hope the House will allow me to preface the observations I am going to make with a single personal remark. I have sat through most of this debate, and I have heard so many kindly references to the absence and the cause of the absence of my right hon. friend the Member for West Birmingham, so many expressions of genuine regret on both sides of the House that he cannot be here, that I hope the House will not think it impertinent of me if I desire to thank them. No one who has listened to this debate, I think, can hesitate to say that it was necessary that we should have the discussion, and that now there is an obvious reason why we should recur to the subject upon future occasions. The discussion has continued to pursue the peculiar course upon which my right hon. friend the Leader of the Opposition has already commented. The President of the Board of Trade deferred his reply to my right hon. friend until much later in the afternoon, but when he did rise, did he make any reply? Let the House recall the great Imperial problem placed before them in such urgent terms by my right hon. friend—a problem which confronts any one who aspires to undertake the work of a constructive statesman in this country. Has the President of the Board of Trade contributed a single idea or a single thought to the solution of that great problem? No, Sir. But he has shown, I must say, a want of knowledge of Colonial opinion and Colonial sentiment which might be excusable in a gentleman whose whole business was to have regard to trade, but is inexcusable in a member of a Government which is the principal Government in this great Empire. He comes to this House to tell us that nowhere in the Colonies is there any desire for preference. He quoted to us a single phrase from a speech of a particular Minister in Canada, out of harmony with the declaration of the Prime Minister of that Colony, out of harmony with Acts solemnly signed and sealed by the Prime Ministers, out of harmony with all the statements made by the Colonial Premiers at recurring Conferences. I know that there is great difficulty in touching the Colonial side of this question. He says, and says truly, they do not demand a preference from us. They do not come asking a favour; they come as young nations, strong in their strength, to offer a bargain advantageous, as they believe, to us as well as to them—to offer a means by which they believe that a purpose which is common to us both may be served with advantage to us both, not merely in our national or Imperial relations, but in our commercial and industrial relations. To suggest because they put this before us as an offer which we are free to accept or refuse, because they do not urge or press it upon us, or some of us, if they think we are in the meanwhile opposed to it, that therefore they do not care about it, is a travesty of fact unworthy of anyone pretending to knowledge, and dangerous in a Minister responsible for a Department. But, Sir, I will deal with the problem from our own point of view. The right hon. Gentleman has contended that we have no special reason for studying the Colonial market, that we have no special dangers to fear in other markets, that we are indeed excluded from some by natural circumstances, largely excluded, but that wherever natural circumstances are equal, we hold our own and beat our competitors out of the field. Then he proceeds one step further, and asks, as the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean has asked, whether we should risk our present trade with foreign countries in order to secure some doubtful advantage in Colonial markets. Now, Sir, I propose to examine the thesis of the right hon. Gentleman and to give the House some figures by which they may test it. The right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean was content to quote our exports per head of the population, showing how much larger they were than those of our principal competitors per head of the population, and asks what more we want. When I listen to the right hon. Gentleman I never know whether to be more amazed at the extent of his information or the misuse he makes of it. What has that to do with the question? What possible inference can you draw from it? The only test which would have any value is the export per head of that proportion of the population which is engaged in manufacture for export, and, fortunately, or unfortunately for us, I will not undertake to say which, we have probably a much larger proportion of our population engaged in manufacture for export than, for instance, such a country as Germany. Why, Sir, the view put before us ignores altogether the fact that in Germany agriculture is still a prosperous industry, that something like one-third of the people of the German Empire still find their living in agricultural pursuits. May I not turn the tables on the right hon. Gentleman, may I not say that, if you are to look at our exports per head, you should also look at the imports per head of our customers? Which, then, is our most valuable market—our own Colonies with an import per head of their population varying from 41s. in Canada to 112s. in the Cape of Good Hope and Natal, or Germany, Holland, and Belgium with 12s. 9d., France with 8s. 6d., and the United States with only 5s. 9d.? I go further; I challenge the right hon. Gentleman's statement that we hold our own, that when once we meet our competitors, Germany and the United States, for instance, away from the immediate neighbourhood of their boundaries, we are beating them out of the field. Let me remind the right hon. Gentleman—I think he has forgotten it for the moment in the excitement of the debate—that he is President of the Board of Trade. As President of the Board of Trade he has presented to this House a Return which deals with our trade and the trade of Germany and the United States. What does it show? It shows that the exports to China, including Hong Kong, from the United Kingdom increased £2,244,000 on an average for the five years 1900–4 above the five years 1890–94. He says that we beat our competitors out of the field because the whole increase is £2,250,000 in round figures, while the increase of Germany is £1,260,000. Our increase is greater than that of Germany, but our percentage of increase is very much less. [MINISTERIAL laughter.] I expected that laughter; I invited it and was waiting for it. Now let us have the figures of the United States, which are not contiguous to Hong Kong or China. We at any rate have a depôt in Hong Kong under our own flag. What is the increase of the United States?—£3,255,000, more than a million more than the increase in the exports of this country, which is beating America out of the field.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I do not know whether the right hon. Gentleman is going to give the actual figures. I think he ought to. America sold £5,000,000 worth, Germany £3,380,000 worth; we sold £13,000,000 worth, almost twice as much us both of them together.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I have not the slightest objection to the right hon. Gentleman giving any figures he likes.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: They are in that Return.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: But I would beg him to choose them fairly. I say in the first place that I was not going to give those figures because that was not relevant to the argument he advanced. His statement was not that our trade was greater than theirs—that we all knew, we were first in the field, and we still have a lead—but that we were beating them out of the field. But now I take his figures. He has taken the figures of the single year 1904. The Return is made out in averages of years; why did he not quote the average of years? He has chosen a year in which American trade fell from over £5,800,000 to a little over £4,900,000—a year in which American trade fell by nearly £1,000,000—to compare with a year in which our trade happened to jump up by £4,000,000. I do not call that a fair use of figures. Let me take the five years' average as in the Return.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I simply quoted the last year.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: I should do the right hon. Gentleman injustice if I suggested that he was deliberately choosing those figures which were not representative or accurate, but he should know his own Return; and when he has occasion to quote it, he should have in his mind these facts, which make the particular quotation he chose wholly misrepresentative. On an average of five years our trade was £9,900,000; Germany's trade £5,300,000; that of the United States £2,800,000. We are not beating our competitors out of the field. The same is true of Argentina. Instead, however, of taking Argentina alone, I will take the whole of South America. There is no foreign trade we have, I suppose, more important to us than the South American trade. Germany has no special advantages; it is not just over her borders; the United States are not close at hand. Are we beating Germany out of the whole of the South American trade?

The increase of Germany, if we compare the average of the two periods of five years I have already taken, was £2,500,000. Yet Germany is hampered by the high protective tariff which, according to the right hon. Gentleman opposite, causes raw material to become dearer, and the cost of labour to be increased, and which, therefore, destroys her power of effective competition. Yet her average increase is £2,500,000. The United States increased under the same disadvantages by £1,750,000, and Great Britain, with its doors wide open to the goods of every country in the world, no matter at what price they may dump, no matter at what cost to our own industry, with no tax on corn to raise the cost of labour, with every advantage that the right hon. Gentleman can desire for it, her increase is what? Sir, we have no increase. There is a decrease of over £400,000. Is it not trifling with the House for the Minister who presented that Return to make to us the statement that wherever natural conditions are not adverse to us we beat our competitors out of the field?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: There was an increase last year of £14,000,000.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Yes, Sir, there was an increase last year of £14,000,000, as the right hon. Gentleman says. I have taken out figures for last year. I invite the right hon. Gentleman to bring up his Return to date; I am sure he will be glad to do so; and I will undertake to say you will find that though there was an extraordinary expansion last year, it was not confined to us. There was a large expansion with our competitors as well, and though it will perhaps wipe out the decrease in the trade for the average of five years, it will not alter the tendencies which I have described, and which are shown in the Return I have quoted. It is conceded by every one, and by the Chancellor of the Exchequer first of all, that with the great protective nations of the world our trade is becoming more and more difficult. It is not only becoming more and more difficult, but what we preserve of it is altering its character. There was a German official statement the other day recounting the fact in bald and uncoloured language. It said the export trade from England to Germany was almost entirely in raw materials or goods in which little work had been employed, whilst the export from Germany to this country was now mainly in highly-finished manufactures. Nobody can contend that we are holding our own in these great protective markets. I have shown by the right hon. Gentleman's own Return that we are not holding our own in the neutral markets, where, if anywhere, we ought to be doing best. Our colonial markets, I say, then become of increasing importance; we must cultivate them; we must seek to make good there, where at any rate they are willing to welcome us, what we lose, or cease to gain elsewhere. What, then, are the objections? The right hon. Gentleman objected—following the right hon. Baronet the Member for the Forest of Dean—that it was impossible to deal with the case of India. He went further. He said, in positive terms, that the Government of India rejected any notion of it. What authority had he for that statement? It is not contained in Lord Curzon's despatch. Has he a new despatch, and will he lay it on the table? No; he has no new despatch, and he gives no authority. All that I need say about India on this occasion is that the case of India must, of course, be considered in the interests of India. The right hon. Baronet seemed surprised because I cheered the statement that it would be monstrous to force on India a tariff or preferential system to which India herself was opposed. I should have thought it was common sense to say so. It is obvious that she must be invited to consider the question and that her treatment must be governed by those who are competent to speak for her as to how she should be treated. But he speaks as if the present tariff system of India was the work of the people of India, and was that which by preference found favour in her eyes. Is here a living soul who knows anything of India who thinks that India would maintain her present fiscal system for a day if not compelled? Our own Anglo-Indian officials would alter that system to-morrow if the Secretary of State for India would allow them. We shall not make greater difficulties for India; we may be able to give her greater advantages than she has hitherto had from our control over her fiscal system. I come to the case of the Colonies. There are two main objections that have been raised to any preference by the Colonies. The first is that they have nothing to give us. The hon. Gentleman the Member for Liecester spoke of the case of Australia. Nobody would dream, to listen to his speech, that the Prime Ministers of the Governments of Australia and the leaders of the Labour Party in Australia were all in favour of preference and had publicly expressed this. The hon. Gentleman thought Australia had nothing to give us and would have even less in future. He suggested that they might put on a system of export duties on raw material. I do not know whether he is right or not. If he is, I draw exactly the opposite inference from that which he drew. Preference becomes not less important but more important. There is no duty that Australia can impose on which a preference would be of such importance to us as a preference on any export duty on their raw material. He says, as other speakers have said of other Colonies, that you cannot have any effective offer from them because they are people who wish to keep their own work to themselves. We never supposed that they were going to be one of those unwise countries which put all their eggs in one basket. We look forward to their development, not as hostile to us, but as taking pride such as a father felt in the growth and development of his son. We do not desire to hamper or limit them. What they desire to offer us is a preference, in those things which they cannot supply themselves, over all the rest of the world. The hon. Member says the Australian cry is, "Australian work for Australian workmen;" the New Zealand cry is, "New Zealand work for New Zealand workmen;" and the Canadion cry is, "Canadian work for Canadian workmen." I, for one, am not ashamed to say that I want British work for British workmen in as large a measure as we can obtain it. I doubt if there is a single hon. Member who would care to say the opposite. If we differ, it is not as to our object; it is as to our means. I believe that the means which we must use are the means which have been pointed to by my right hon. friend beside me (the Leader of the Opposition). We must secure fairer terms for our people at home. We must cultivate the best markets that are open to us and seek to extend them. The hon. and learned Gentleman who spoke earlier in the afternoon, followed fast by the President of the Board of Trade, though much more cautiously, I was glad to see, argued that the Canadian preference did us no good, or a trifling amount of good, because there had been a great expansion in Canadian prosperity, and because the United States of America had increased their exports to Canada even faster than we have ours. You have to remember that, in the first place, that preference covered only a limited number of articles; and, secondly, that the preference is *ad valorem*, and that where the duty is low the preference will be low, and may be insufficient to turn the trade our way. The President of the Board of Trade spoke of the competition in steel rails and said, "How can you compete on any system of preference when the Americans dump their rails at 20 dollars a ton which it is a fair profit to sell at home at 27 dollars a ton?" Does the right hon. Gentleman know that Canada has not merely a preferential tariff, but a penalty tax on dumping? Does he know, or is this an insignificant detail which it is not worth while for the President of the Board of Trade to give attention to, that Canada put that tax on American rails when the Americans dumped them and threw the trade into our hands by doing so? Of course, the American trade has increased faster than our own; but the significant fact is that American trade was increasing all along. Ours, until the moment that preference was given, was going down. From the moment we got preference it rose; and I do not think there is a manufacturer dealing in the articles on which we have a preference and doing Canadian trade who will not say that he has derived benefit from the preference he has enjoyed. The hon. Gentleman and others argue that you cannot have a uniform system giving the same preference to all your Colonies. Whoever pretended you could, or ever asked such a thing? That is not how

Canada offers its Imperial preference. It makes a tariff of a preferential kind in which it admits from the British Empire certain goods on favourable terms. It does not make an exact debtor and creditor account, and try to strike a precise balance between what it gives and receives, and that is the force of the argument addressed to us. The hon. Gentleman asks, "Do you think you can give any effective preference upon the duties now in existence?" What is the use, says the hon. and learned Gentleman, of a preference on wine to the Cape? Does he know; if not, will he allow me to inform him, that the Cape Government on more than one occasion—more than one Cape Government —has specifically asked for that as something of great benefit to themselves? But even if that were a small benefit, is there no sentiment in this matter? Hon. and right hon. Gentlemen would bid us rely on sentiment alone in our relations with the rest of the Empire. There is a sentiment for union which finds expression among our Colonial kinsmen in a desire for preference. If you cannot give it on a large scale, at least respond to the sentiment by doing it on a small scale. And if you set sentiment so high as you have been inclined to do, do not despise the effect which even a small preference might have on their sentimental feelings. But the right hon. gentleman wants to know where, in my opinion, we ought to stop, whether, if we make full use of our duties at present existing, we should have a broad-based system of preference within the Empire. I do not think so. You may supplement it with any new tax if you cannot find means by bounties on shipping or by preferential rates—means by which some other countries give considerable assistance to their trade; but, for my part, I admit I do not think you can have any broad-based preferential schemes within this country without imposing new Customs duties at our ports, new Customs duties which in part must fall upon food. I agreed with my right hon. friend, and we do not stand alone in this matter, that the financial needs of this country will force us to broaden the basis of our taxation. That is no new doctrine of the Party for which I speak. It has been preached by Lord Goschen, who, I am sorry to say, will never again help us in our financial discussions, and it has been preached again and again by Lord St. Aldwyn, who, because he felt it so strongly, put taxes on coal, corn, and sugar. We repealed the tax on corn. You abandoned the tax on coal. What an unnecessary sacrifice of revenue you made the great demand now shows and the high prices which prevail.

An HON. MEMBER: You said you were going to.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: No; I did not.

An HON. MEMBER: Well your father did.

Mr. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: The hon. Gentleman is not very courteous; and he is also wrong. These taxes have gone. I believe you must find new taxes, and I say to my right hon. friend that if you find new Customs duties, we must use these new, as we would use our present duties, to give the widest preference we can to our own kinsmen. Hon. Gentlemen opposite want to know whether I would tax food. I have never made any secret of that. I would tax food as they tax food; it is merely a question of what food should be taxed. I would not make harder the struggles of the poor, I would not impose upon them a heavier burden; if a sacrifice is to be made let it be borne by those who are best able to bear it. What I propose is not an addition to, but a redistribution of, the burden upon the poor, and that is the most that is involved. It is constantly argued as if the main question for the poor was cheapness of food, as if the most important question for the poor was to be able to buy in the cheapest possible market, and it is argued again and again that any import duty must raise the price of the article, at least to the extent of the duty. I wish hon. Gentlemen would test that theory by a little conversation with any British manufacturer doing an export trade in any but patent or monopoly articles. Is the export trader with Germany or the United States in any article they make there able to secure from his customer the whole of the duty paid upon the article?

No, we know it is not the case; the manufacturer is compelled to give way, and unless he takes part of the duty upon himself the purchaser he desires to secure will go elsewhere. This is constantly done. There is nothing peculiar in this respect in regard to food. If there is a sufficient supply within the Empire the foreign exporter will have to do what the British manufacturer has had to do to get his produce into foreign countries, take part of the burden upon himself; how much, or if the whole, will depend upon the supply at home. Is cheapness the greatest consideration for the working man? Nothing in the course of this debate has struck me more than to find how far the Cobdenites of the new school have travelled from the ground occupied by their master. Cobden did not argue that price was all-important; he made a speech in which he rebuked Sir R. Peel for promising cheapness, and said that it was not a sign of wealth and prosperity and that high prices accompanied prosperous times. Not only Cobden, but Mr. Gladstone held that view. The House will understand that I quote him for no more than his view that cheapness is not of the most importance to the poor of this country. In 1860, in the course of his Budget speech, he said—

> "I do not hesitate to say that it is a mistake to suppose that the best way to assist the welfare of the poorer classes is simply to operate on the articles they consume; to do them the *maximum* amount of good you should rather operate on the articles which give them the *maximum* of employment."

If my memory serves me rightly the speech was made upon the occasion when Mr. Gladstone proposed the abolition of the paper duty and was defending himself against the objection that he should have taken the shilling duty off corn. He wished to give a greater relief to the working classes and did not take off the corn duty. Mr. Gladstone said—

> "What has brought about the greatest change in late years in the position of the working classes? Not the lightening of taxation here and there of a penny or two-pence in articles consumed; it is that the general course of trade has been set more free. It is that there has been opened a wider field and higher remuneration for labour."

Then Mr. Gladstone went on to refer to the effect of the repeal of the corn duties. Hon Members have not, perhaps, studied the effect of that change; they may accept Mr. Gladstone's statement made in 1860—

> "It may possibly be doubted if up to this time you have given them cheaper bread, or at the best it is but a trifle cheaper than before."

I do not doubt the good object of Mr. Gladstone and Cobden in their day; but do their methods serve the same end now? Do they make more free the general course of trade? We know that the course of trade is more than ever hampered by foreign tariffs. Do they give a greater field of employment for our people? Much of the trade we used to have has gone to other countries because of our defenceless position against tariffs. There is another question I will put. The price of bread on any day you like to take varies in different parts of the country, varies even in different streets of the same town, and in working-class quarters of the same character. Have you ever heard of a man moving to another town because there bread was ½d. a pound cheaper? No; if he moves it is not in search of cheaper bread, but in search of work. It is to secure for him more employment that, from our point of view, we press this subject on the House. We do not ask hon. Gentleman to commit themselves in any way to a proposal; but we hold this to be a matter of vital importance to ourselves and to the Empire at large, and we would improve our own condition while strengthening the unity of the Empire. The resolution invites the House to allow consideration of the whole problem in its relation to different parts of the Empire. What is the aim of our policy? Have we as a country any settled policy at all or any coherent body of thought behind it? Have we a well-defined purpose or settled means for attaining it? I do not suppose any member will avow indifference to the future of the British Empire, or does not desire the continuation of the union of the parts now composing it; but who can say that was the view held when our present fiscal system was adopted? Is it not notorious that, so far from the fiscal system being adopted with a view to the unity of the Empire, it was rather regarded as a gentle dissolvent which, in the most gradual way, might pave the way for separation and the setting up of the Colonies as friendly but independent States? Who cherishes such an ideal now? We have surely a better, a higher ideal. Men then looked forward to the time when these countries would no longer be part of a great Empire—though they did suppose there would still be a United Kingdom.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.): That is for us.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: They looked forward to a time when international barriers would be broken down, when national armaments would be reduced, national rivalries softened, our intercourse with foreign nations peaceful, and trade directed to the supply of each other's deficiencies. But the whole trend of affairs has been directly contrary to anticipations, rivalries have intensified, armaments are greater than ever. In these sixty years we have had the creation of a new Italy, a new Germany, formed first by trade and then by "blood and iron"; a consolidation of the United States also by "blood and iron"; we have seen the birth of a new Japan amid the clash of arms, and perhaps we shall see a new Russia. The whole situation has changed, our ideas, our objects, have changed, and our policy must change too. I will not say more now in regard to the changes in our Colonies; they are not Colonies in the usual sense, they are not dependencies, they have become sister nations superior to us in territory, and in time they may become greater in population and wealth. What are our relations to be with them? We abandoned the *laissez faire* and *laissez aller* policy upon which our fiscal system was founded long ago; we have abandoned the old ideas, and is it not the irony of fate that this Government should be the feeble echo of the obsolete thunders of the Liberty and Property Defence Association, and should support views that prevailed in the early stages of Colonial development? Our development would have been different. It would not have been less rapid, less fruitful, or less prosperous. But it would have been less isolated, less careless of the common aim. We cannot retrace the past. We cannot do to-day what would have been so easy to do sixty years ago. But it is still time for us to fortify the ties of sentiment between us and our Colonies with ties of common interests and daily intercourse. Let us embark our fortunes on a common venture. Let us man the ship of Empire with the hopes and the fortunes of all. So only can we be sure that when the tempest breaks we shall meet the crisis with a common purpose and a common effort.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 98; Noes 363. (Division List No. 6.)

AYES.

Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Banner, John S. Harmood
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Burdett-Coutts, W.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carson, Rt. Hon. Sir Edw. H.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Chamberlain, Rt Hn. J. A (Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S)
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Forster, Henry William
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, J. (Londonderry, S.)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans- (T'r Ham.)
Haddock, George R.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William

Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompton, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Muntz, Sir Philip A.
Nicholson, Wm. G. (Petersfield)
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Parkes, Ebenezer
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Percy, Earl
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Stanley, Hon. Arthur (Ormskirk
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Warde, Col. C. E. (Kent, Mid)
Willoughby de Eresby, Lord
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. H. (Eastbourne
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r'Hamlets, S.Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt HnSir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Crombie, John William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hon. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Esmonde, Sir Thomas
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)

Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington)
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Nicholls, George
Nicholson, Charles N. (Doncast'r
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Malley, William
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro')
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs.)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Sheehy, David
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tillett, Louis John
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

*MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.), moved the addition of the following words:—"But humbly express our regret that, whilst 5 per cent. of the most highly-skilled artisans are out of employment and the Unemployed Workmen Act has proved inadequate to deal with distress due to lack of employment, no mention is made in Your Majesty's gracious Speech for any proposals for dealing with this serious and menacing evil." He said that after the very eloquent speeches delivered that afternoon upon the policy of Colonial preference it was very difficult for a Member like himself to follow. The House would not expect him to deliver anything like a University or academical address on this question of the unemployed, seeing that he started work when between three and four years of age and had never received any scholastic education. He had, therefore, some difficulty in finding words to give expression to his feelings on the subject dealt with by his Amendment. There had been many questions discussed during the last week, but to his way of thinking there was none more important than that he was about to raise. The organised workers were very much disappointed with the Government because they were not promised any legislation this session. In the King's Speech of 1906 he believed there was some reference made to legislation in order to amend the Unemployed Workmen's Act of 1905. Up to July, 1906, however, absolutely nothing was done, but a promise was made to distribute £200,000 among the distress committees. Such a sum as £200,000 was, however, useless to deal with the unemployed question. It was indeed like a drop in the ocean, and in his opinion £5,000,000 would not solve the problem. No doubt the £200,000 had been properly spent, and the President of the Local Government Board would tell them how it was distributed. To the Distress Board of West Ham £7,000 was sent, for which they were very thankful, but he might point out that in that borough they had 4,000 men and women who had registered their names under the Act as being out of employment. What was true of West Ham applied to other parts of the town and country. Last year £4,500,000 was granted to Ireland in relief of distress, and no doubt the economic condition of the labourers of Ireland was very bad indeed, but it should not be forgotten that the economic condition of the labourers of this country was as bad as that of the workers in Ireland. Under those circumstances one would have expected that the President of the Local Government Board would have obtained more than £200,000 from the Treasury. No doubt the right hon Gentleman would later on allude to the booming state of trade and to the tremendous increase of the imports and exports of this country, and he admitted that trade in most of our industrial centres was much better than it was two years ago. The Returns presented by the Board of Trade, however, showed that in regard to highly trained men 80 per 1,000 were out of employment in January, 1905, in 1906, 50 per 1,000, and in 1907 40 per 1,000. Therefore, there had been very little difference in the figures from year to year in regard to skilled artisans. Professor Giffen, who held a responsible position at the Board of Trade, had stated that there were 10,000,000 adult workers in this country, and according to the percentages 400,000 or 500,000 skilled men and women were out of employment at the various centres. That was merely on the basis of the skilled workers, but as far as the general or unskilled workers were concerned there were a great many more out of employment. Even if trade was a bit better now than it had been, they had to remember that there were cycles both of good and of bad trade. Assuming that this good cycle of trade would last two years, he thought the Government ought still to pass legislation so that when the cycle had ended local authorities would have power to deal with the most difficult and complex question of the unemployed. In his opinion the Unemployed Act of 1905 was nothing more than a rate-saving machine. Before that Act the local authorities were enabled to spend money out of the rates when men were out of work, but since the Act was passed they had refused to do anything of the kind or grant any money in any shape or form. They relied upon the Act of 1905, and the result was that many men had been starving because no relief whatever could be obtained for them. He recognised that in our large industrial centres machinery was being introduced and industrial inventions had been brought forward which must deprive a large number of men of their work. For instance, in the gas working trade during the last eight years new methods had been introduced which had deprived many men of their employment. In one factory at Bristol the foreman told him that under the old system fifty-six instead of twenty-four men would have been employed. That state of things applied to all trades up and down the country. No doubt they would be told that the late war was to a large extent responsible for the present depression; but that could not be the case, because the war occurred in 1899, and as a matter of fact in 1885 and 1886 he and his right hon. friend opposite were the chief movers in a great agitation which tried to stir up the Government of the day. They worried the then President of the Local Government Board the right hon. Member for West Birmingham, and urged him to send out circulars to the local authorities giving them power to find work for unemployed men. Therefore he did not think the war was altogether responsible for the tremendous number of men who were out of work. Then again he expected that they would be asked to find out remedies, but that was for the Government. They were paid for the job. He for many years past had pinned his faith for the betterment of this condition of things to a legal eight hours day, and he believed if it were brought about it would absorb all the unemployed. It was said that this would make it impossible for our manufacturers to compete with the foreigner. He admitted that foreign competition was keen in some industries, but there were many trades in which there was no competition at all. There was none in regard to railways upon which the hours of labour were very long indeed. Moreover, if the Government were in earnest let them put their own house in order. If they reduced the hours of labour men would not, as now, be discharged from our arsenals and dockyards as they had been recently. Then again by a very short Bill the local authorities might be made to reduce the hours of labour of their employees to eight hours a day. In some cases in which he had been interested that policy had been adopted by mutual agreement; but the people were not satisfied with their administration, probably because they thought they had done too much for them, and they sent many of his friends about their business and many of the men were working as they did in the old days. Everybody who had studied it knew the gravity of the problem and he did not care whether this was looked upon as a vote of censure or not—something would have to be done, because £200,000 was quite inadequate to deal with the question, especially if we had a cycle of years of depression. The Local Government Board ought to bring forward a Bill so as to have at hand some machinery by which when a man dropped out of employment he could be picked up at once, because in most cases when men were out of work for a week they were, vulgarly speaking, on their beam ends and had to pawn something to find food for their wives and children. He begged to move.

Mr. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.), in seconding, said the House would see that this Amendment was somewhat different from the other Amendments dealing with the same subject which had been placed upon the Paper. It claimed that there were 5 per cent. of skilled workmen out of employment. As representing a union of skilled workers it was only proper that he should speak for the skilled workers and point out that what was happening to that class was also happening to the unskilled workers to a greater degree. So far as the skilled workers were concerned, 400,000 were out of employment. A few evenings previously it was stated in this House, and he believed the President of the Local Government Board agreed with the statement, that if we could get more technical education it would result in more employment, but he desired to point out that some of the most skilled men in the cabinet-making trade in London were walking about the streets unemployed. Owing to the building of large factories, which crowded out small employers, and the laying down of labour-saving machinery and the strict division of skilled work within the factories, this type of man was restricted to a small number of shops in a particular part of London who only did what was called bespoke work, special work, which was not done by the factories. The same thing also affected the other skilled industries, the logical outcome of a more economical process of production involving a greater reduction of work both of the skilled and the unskilled worker. His hon. friend the Member for West Ham had quoted one example of the condition which obtained in every industrial centre. The figures with regard to West Ham, which were the figures of Mr. Humphreys, the secretary of the Borough Council of West Ham, and were correct, showed that during the four months from 1st October, 1906, to 31st January, 1907, there were registered as out of employment 3,816 persons, of whom 1,441 were skilled workers. Similar figures applied to the whole of the large industrial centres of the country, and from that the House would readily see that this was a far more startling problem than it appeared on the surface. His hon. friend had also stated that on the basis of an industrial population of 10,000,000, 10,000 would be out of employment. He thought his hon. friend had rather under-estimated the figure. Upon his estimate there would be no less than 90,000. He arrived at that estimate by taking the figure given in the return 4·2 per cent. on one-third of the membership of the trade unions, which made about 25,990 out of employment, and multiplying it by three, which gave 77,970 organised skilled workmen out of employment. Taking those figures on an industrial population of 16,000,000, which was nearer the mark than 10,000,000, the result obtained was 800,000 out of employment. He knew how difficult it was to deal with the question of unemployment; that the road to remedial and palliative legislation bristled with difficulties; and that the statesman was not yet born who could solve this problem; but all the Amendment asked was for sympathetic consideration and the adoption of legislative proposals upon right lines. In his opinion the problem was insoluble, owing to the fact that the present system, under which trade was engaged in for profit, was dependent on its being at all times able to draw upon a large supply of unemployed labour, and there being no desire on the part of those engaged in the pursuit of wealth under this system to grapple with the solution of the unemployed problem. It was quite obvious that if 400 or 300 adults were taken from the unemployed ranks and given work the security of those employed in the factories would be greater, because, there being less unemployed, wages would go up and hours go down. He would not say that all the unemployed were what they should be, but he would point out that the system which obtained to-day created the wastrel, and the only course to follow to recreate that man and bring him back to industrial usefulness was some method by which the problem of unemployment could be grappled with without delay, and without the aid of charity. The reason why trade unions were so interested in this matter was that the unemployed problem cost the organised trade union movement no less than from £600,000 to £800,000 a year, which he thought was grossly unfair. They were faced with a greater enemy than the judgments of the Courts which attacked and impaired the usefulness of their funds, and which they reversed last year. They were faced with the enemy hunger, and with the certainty that the percentage of unemployment would grow year by year. In this the most prosperous year that he had known, when the output both as to quantity and value was greater than ever it had been, the average of unemployment had grown to 5 per cent. That was to say for five out of every 100 of skilled workmen engaged in the cabinet-making trade there was no room, and they expected with the extension of the factory system that that percentage would grow from five to ten and from ten to fifteen, with the result that it would whittle away the membership of the unions. Looking to the question of unemployment or working short time, it was obvious that, if the funds of unions were constantly drawn upon for unemployment benefits, in time they would not be able to pay them, and therefore they would be unable to keep up their membership. Labour Members did not grumble at the increase of machinery, which ought to be a blessing, nor did they grumble about the more economical methods of production. What they did say, however, was that the nation as a whole reaped the benefit of increased productivity and of more economical methods of production, and that by improved processes more men were thrown out of employment. They submitted that the nation ought to recognise the position, and deal with it not merely from a humanitarian point of view, but because they had taken upon themselves the responsibility of recognising the right of every man to sustenance and means of earning his living. Broadly, that was their case. What did they suggest as the best course of dealing with this question? Might he emphatically remind the House that last session a promise was made in the King's Speech with regard to the subject of unemployment? They were all delighted to hear that promise. They were satisfied again when, at the adjournment for the Easter holidays, the right hon. Gentleman promised that the Act should be amended. On the adjournment for the Whitsuntide holidays, he regretted to say that the right hon. Gentleman somewhat shifted his position, if he might be permitted to use that expression, as to the character of the legislation to be undertaken and the action to be taken. The right hon. Gentleman said that figures did not affect him; what weighed with him were the difficulties of the situation, and the need, concurrently with palliative measures and financial provision for next winter, of legislation and change of a preventive character that would render all soup kitchens and farm colonies unnecessary in five or ten years. On the adjournment on the 19th July, the right hon. Gentleman made the definite declaration that the Government intended to keep their promise to amend the Act; and the point was whether it was wise or not to do so. All agreed that the Act was inadequate, but the one thing that the Act did was to admit the responsibility of the State for dealing with unemployed workmen. There was great value in that admission of principle, and, as far as he was concerned, his position was that the Act ought to be amended in the direction of giving greater authority to local bodies. He was one of a Committee, in conjunction with several other hon. Members with whom he acted, who considered the question of the unemployed, and how it could be effectively dealt with. They submitted to the late Premier and the then President of the Local Government Board a circular in which they made certain suggestions. The late Prime Minister, rightly or wrongly, thought their suggestions were not at all practicable. One of the suggestions was as to afforestation. We had something like 22,000,000 acres of waste land, and he submitted that we ought to begin the experiment. He submitted also that this work could be undertaken effectively by the local authorities. He was himself in the wood trade, and they knew that the time would come when they would have seriously to consider the supply of this raw material. How could that be done? He submitted that at least half of the 22,000,000 acres of waste land should be put under timber, and that would employ a large number of workmen. The ex-Premier had told them that the accomplishment of this object was not probable, and yet they had seen enough to learn what splendid results had been achieved in this direction in Germany. A Committee of the House of Commons had reported that—

> "There were 21,000,000 acres of waste land in Great Britain, of which at least half were suitable for forestry. In 1903 we imported £21,000,000 worth of fir timber alone. Of the 135,000,000 acres which composed the German Empire, 35,000,000 are under wood. They give employment to 400,000 workpeople, and yield a revenue of £18,000,000 to the State."

Lord Powerscourt had explained that on his estate he obtained a yield of £1 an acre from waste land planted with trees, while the value of agricultural land in the neighbourhood had been enhanced by 10s. an acre. He submitted that all that was needed from the amendment of the Unemployed Workmen's Act was to give greater powers to the local authorities. Secondly, they ought to recognise that the solution of the problem was a matter of national responsibility, and that it should therefore be dealt with on national lines. A conference of local authorities who met in the City of Norwich to consider the question of the erosion of the sea-coast, agreed that this was distinctly a question for the Government, and they petitioned that works for preventing erosion should be undertaken. The point of that was that such an undertaking would provide work for the unemployed, not only for the unskilled labourer, but for large numbers of skilled workmen. The right hon. Gentleman would recollect that he attended a conference held in the Guildhall, in 1903, in regard to the unemployed. The question of the reclamation of waste land was under consideration, and the conference almost unanimously declared that this also was a work that would be profitable to the nation, and would find employment for large sections of unemployed workmen. His hon. friend the Member for Tottenham had written a very valuable pamphlet on that kind of work, and he only wished he had time to quote from it. All these things would aid to some degree in grappling with the problem. Above all, unemployed men would be given work instead of charity, and they would obtain wages for the work they did. Parliament ought to look at this question from the point of view of how it would affect the nation, and also from the economic point of view. To place in the hands of 500,000 men, which he submitted could be done, wages obtained for work of the character he had indicated, would inevitably increase the general prosperity of the country, because these men would want clothes, furniture, and house room. It would prevent men from becoming wasteful, and it would preserve the family life. The time had come when they ought to grapple with this matter in an effective manner, and the only way to do this was not by charitable methods, but by giving, in the first place, local authorities additional powers; and, in the second place, by creating some machinery able to grapple with large masses of men and to put them to some useful work which would be beneficial to themselves and to the nation.

Amendment proposed—

"At the end of the Question, to add the words, 'But humbly express our regret that, whilst five per cent. of the most highly-skilled artisans are out of employment, and the Unemployed Workmen Act has proved inadequate to deal with distress due to lack of employment, no mention is made in Your Majesty's gracious Speech of any proposals for dealing with this serious and menacing evil.'"—(*Mr. Thorne.*)

Question again proposed, "That those words be there added."

*MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham) congratulated the Mover and Seconder of the Amendment upon the forcible way in which they had stated their case. It seemed to him that it was quite unnecessary to appeal for sympathy in this House, because that was already assured. What they had to do was to suggest ways and means by which this evil could be remedied. He thought they might confidently say that there were in this country quite 500,000 unemployed. That number might be disputed, but even if there were only 250,000 the question would be big enough for any Government to solve. He agreed that the time had gone by for dealing with this question by charity. There were already a large number of charitable institutions attempting to deal with this question, but he was afraid that they were not making the evil any less, and probably they were intensifying it. He did not wish to say anything against the efforts of certain religious institutions, but he would like to ask those organisations to consider very carefully whether in their wood chopping in labour yards they were not in some cases doing more harm than good, and ousting the regular labourer. He hoped they would give thoughtful consideration to that matter, because he had a great deal of evidence to show that in the past some harm had been done. The only two suggestions which had been made to meet the difficulty were relief works and emigration. With regard to relief works he quite endorsed what had been said about them by the hon. Member for South West Ham and about the condition of West Ham. He thought 4,000 was rather under-estimating the number of unemployed in the West Ham district. That in itself was a very serious matter. Not long ago the Charity Organisation Society investigated over 3,000 of these cases in order that they might be able to say definitely whether these men were genuine unemployed and really wanted work, or whether they were the won't-works. After careful investigation they decided that something like 8 per cent. were men who could be styled lazy and unwilling to work. He did not think that was a very large proportion when they remembered the large amount of casual labour in that district, and what a bad effect casual employment had upon the *morale* of the labourer. What were they to do with the remainder?

If it could be proved beyond a shadow of doubt that the great majority of these men in West Ham and Tottenham were willing to work, there was nothing for it on the part of any Government worthy of the name but to make some attempt to supply them with work. Some attempt had been made, and he wished to give credit to the President of the Local Government Board for having acted promptly in the cases which concerned his own district. The moment they had put forward works of general utility which would not in the ordinary way be carried out by local authorities, the President of the Local Government Board had met them immediately, and granted the necessary supplies. He wished to give the right hon. Gentleman credit for that. But the difficulty of relief works was to find the right kind of work, and that was almost impossible in some districts. Therefore they could not regard relief works as a solution of the unemployed problem, but only as a temporary expedient which tided them over a difficulty during a passing trade depression. If relief works were to be useful they ought to adopt the co-operative gang system which had been so successful in New Zealand, where the State had a department dealing with the unemployed. The unemployed in New Zealand were broken up into small gangs of ten or twelve men, and they selected their own foreman. They were then permitted to contract for any small piece of work such as the clearing of a forest, or the making of a piece of road, and they did it at a price which the Government engineer fixed. They were then allowed to carry out the work in their own time, and the quicker they got it done the more money they earned. If the local authorities could adopt this co-operative gang system they would at once remove many of the difficulties which had presented themselves in regard to relief works. The other remedy suggested was emigration. Before they tried that remedy upon any very large scale he certainly thought they ought to try migration. In Ireland the Congested Districts Board were at present considering the problem of migrating from the congested districts many hundreds, and perhaps thousands of labourers, who could not earn a livelihood, whose holdings were not economic, and who, if they were to be enabled to earn a livelihood, would have to be planted upon better and richer land. The Congested Districts Board were seeking compulsory powers to acquire some of the rich grazing lands in Roscommon, and he thought England ought to follow the example of Ireland in this respect. There should be some machinery by which the men who had migrated from the country districts to the towns could be once more placed upon the land. With regard to afforestation, it was a great, important, and lucrative industry. He thought also that the question of coast erosion needed the attention of the Government and would be of great value to the country as a whole and especially to the unemployed. He would like to point out that there were already in the Government pigeon holes a scheme for afforestating thirty or forty thousand acres of land in Scotland, and he thought that might be taken up. The land had been inspected, and it was exactly suited for such an experiment. If the Government would begin by making this experiment he was sure they would go on. The industry was so valuable that he was very much surprised that we had not followed the example of other countries in this matter. As to coast erosion, he had come to the conclusion that nothing but Government interference would be of any avail. It was impossible for small watering places to deal with coast erosion in their own immediate neighbourhoods. He had known a case where the rates had gone up 2s. or 3s. in one year. He wished to make one more suggestion which he believed had not been made in this House before. It was that help should be given to skilled workmen who were out of work. He asked a question the other day as to whether it would not be possible for the Government to help trade unions to pay out-of-work pay. The answer was that the trade unions had not made any attempt to get it. He would advise the trade unions to make the attempt, and he would advise the Government to encourage the trade unions in paying out-of-work pay. He believed that half of the difficulty in connection with the unemployed question would be solved so far as skilled workmen were concerned if trade unions could be subsidised in the way he suggested. He did not say that an enormous amount of money should be paid by the Government, but he thought that if of the sum required the Government supplied one-third and the trade unions two-thirds the unions would be encouraged to go on providing for the unemployed. He could not see how the Government could properly deal with the unemployed question, seeing that there were five different departments concerned in it. At present the President of the Local Government Board had not power to deal with the unemployed problem as a whole. Either he or somebody else should have power to consider the question as a whole. A great deal had been learned on the subject in the last few years, and he would suggest, not for the purpose of delaying legislation, but rather with the desire to expedite it, that a small Select Committee might be usefully appointed to go into the matter and report upon it. He thought hon. Gentlemen opposite would not be averse to that suggestion.

MR. BRIDGEMAN (Shropshire, Oswestry) said he was extremely glad that the House had an opportunity of discussing this important question. The three speeches which had been delivered contained valuable suggestions, although he confessed he failed to distinguish in them any absolute remedies for this crying evil. One of the speakers had said that it was insoluble.

MR. O'GRADY; I simply suggested palliatives, not remedies.

MR. BRIDGEMAN said he was not satisfied with palliatives. He would like to see remedies. Of all the men who sat on the Treasury Bench the President of the Local Government Board was the one in whom he had greatest confidence so far as common sense was concerned. The hon. Member who moved the Amendment had said that it would probably take £5,000,000 to settle the question.

MR. THORNE: I said that probably £5,000,000 would not settle it.

MR. BRIDGEMAN said that was only a different way of saying the same thing. But whether it would need so much money or not, he took it that the general view was that they would prefer that relief should be obtained, not from the State or the rates, but, if possible, by direct employment of a remunerative kind. There were a good many arguments both for and against an eight hours day, but the only result of that remedy, so far as he could see, would be that the same amount of money would be distributed in wages to a larger number of people. Profits were cut so low that capitalists could not pay more, and if they could not get their work done on remunerative terms they would take their capital abroad. Whether an eight hours day was meritorious or not, it would not by itself solve this question. He would like to see a condition of affairs in which an eight hours day would be possible without doing harm to a great many labourers. An hon. Member had stated that unemployment was in some measure due to improvements in machinery. If that was so, the difficulty was absolutely insurmountable, because there was no likelihood whatever of there being any set back in the improvements in machinery. Improved machinery was claimed as one of the great advantages in the industrial world because it produced the wonderful cheapness which many people thought almost the only important factor in our social system. He was inclined to think that afforestation was capable of helping more than anything else which had been mentioned. It was a very difficult question, and one which had been very little considered in this country. At present there were heavy rates and taxes placed upon woodland property. There were properties where wood grew which were more highly rated than land close by let for agricultural purposes. That was not the way to encourage afforestation. He had great confidence that the President of the Local Government Board would take that question into consideration. He thought that catch words which had prevailed during the past two years, owing partly to the election and partly to other reasons, had hindered many people in the study of the question of the unemployed. One of the catch words had been "the volume of our trade" exports and imports. It had been said that the volume of our imports and exports had been so satisfactory that there ought not to exist such a number of unemployed at the present moment; that there must be something wrong, and that if they were unemployed it was because they would not work. That he did not believe, for he was convinced that many would work if they could get work. It was generally supposed that by adding imports to exports a proper result in estimating the volume of our trade was arrived at. But many people missed this point: the relative prices of exports and imports and the relative quantities. Everybody admitted that an ideal system would be one under which we could buy raw materials at the lowest possible price and sell our manufactured articles at the highest possible profit. He found that in regard to raw materials in this wonderful year which was boasted of so much, there had been an increase over 1905 of 11·4 per cent. in value, but only an increase of 2·1 per cent. in quantity. That was to say, that although we had been importing slightly more raw materials we had had to pay considerably more for them. That was not satisfactory, for the result was that less money was paid in wages. In regard to the exports of manufactured articles, there had been an increase in 1906 over 1905 of 5·4 per cent. in value and of 7·9 per cent. in quantity. That was to say that we exported more manufactured articles but were getting less for them than before. He would put the case in another way. If a man imported, in 1905, 1,000 tons of raw material for which he paid £1,000, and exported 100 tons of finished articles for which he got £2,000, he would have £1 per ton to spend on labour and profit. But taking the average increase shown for value and quantity for 1906 over 1905, he would have bought in 1906 1,020 tons for £1,114, and sold 108 tons for £2,109. In the volume of trade this would appear as a gain of £114 in imports and £109 in exports, or £223 altogether. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Hear, hear!"] That looked very well, and it had taken some hon. Members in who called "Hear, hear!" But it came to this, that a man paid 1s. 10d. per ton more for his raw materials and received 9s. 6d. less per ton for the finished articles. In other words, he would have made in 1906 about 17s. 2d. on every ton of raw materials he bought against £1 in 1905. He thought that that argument was of some importance. An argument generally advanced by the official representatives of the Government to account for the trouble we were in with regard to unemployment was that our education system was insufficient. The Chancellor of the Exchequer had told the House that all that was wanted was to mix more brains with our work. He did not believe that that would solve the problem. He thought that some of those who had the consideration of our affairs should mix more brains in the discussion of our trade Returns. Again, it was said that the price of wheat was the predominating factor in the matter of unemployment. But when he examined the figures he found that in 1858 the percentage of unemployed was 11·9 and the price of wheat was 44s. 2d. per quarter—a lower price than it had been for some years before and af er. In 1879 the percentage of unemployed was 11·4 and the price of wheat 43s. 10d. In 1886 the percentage of unemployed was 10·2 and the price of wheat 31s. per quarter. Then the good years of employment covered the period when the price of wheat was dearest. For instance, in 1872 the percentage of unemployment was 0·9 and the price of wheat was 57s. per quarter; while in 1873, when the percentage of unemployed was, 1·2 the price of wheat was 58s. per quarter, a higher price than it reached at any time in the subsequent thirty-eight years. [AN HON MEMREB on the MINISTERIAL Benches: That was immediately after the Franco-German War.] His argument was that employment or unemployment did not necessarily depend on the price of wheat in this country and that cheapness was not everything. He did not believe that this problem of unemployment was going to be solved on the lines laid down by the Prime Minister in his election address; and until the Government awoke to the fact that something had happened to alter the conditions and factors in our trade we were not likely to have a solution of the unemployed problem.

*MR. THEODORE TAYLOR (Lancashire, Radcliffe) said he wished to draw attention to the fact that in His Majesty's gracious Speech several measures were mentioned which, after, all would have some effect in remedying the general causes of unemployment. It was proposed to deal with the liquor laws, to introduce measures in regard to small holdings in England and Scotland, for the better housing of the working classes, to amend the patent laws, and to deal with the hours of work in mines. Although they were all at one in desiring to get a real remedy for unemployment, he would point out that, not only were a large number of people out of work in these good times in this free trade country, but there were more in protectionist countries. There were two aspects of this question. There was the ultimate aspect of the question and the more immediate aspect of how to deal with the distress. Much as he would have liked to discuss the general causes of unemployment, he intended to confine himself to the aspect with which the President of the Local Governmen tBoard was more concerned, and that was how to meet the recurring emergencies of unemployment. He was glad to see the late President of the Local Government Board present, because as a political opponent of the right hon. Gentleman he wished to say that we had not had a President of the Local Government Board who had shown that he had this question more at heart. This was not, and ought not to be, a Party question. He thought they all desired sincerely to help each other to find out the best way to deal with it. He noticed that the Member for East Leeds, whose moderate and statesmanlike speech he listened to with great pleasure, had given as a reason why there was, perhaps, no desire to grapple with the problem, that the present industrial system was based on the necessity for the continual existence of an unemployed class. He (Mr. Taylor) did not for a moment subscribe to that doctrine. He did not believe the present industrial *regime* was based on the continual existence of an unemployed class, and he held that if they could remedy the evil of there not being employment for men who were able and anxious to work there would still be a field for the present system—the competitive system if they liked to call it so—to exist. He did not believe the question was one between extreme socialism or collectivism and extreme individualism. It was quite true, as had been said in another debate that afternoon, that there were only the Member for Preston and one or two other Members in the House who had the courage to stand up as ultra-individualists, but he did not think they were striking at the root of the present industrial system if they did away with the unemployed class, as it was their duty to do. Surely there was no sadder spectacle in the world than a man who desired work and could not find it, and he was sure we had no right as a Christian country to allow this to go on. What did this mean? It meant that the community must undertake the responsibility that every man who could work and was willing to work should have work found for him. Indeed they had agreed to this in voting for the Act of 1905. He knew that to his individualistic friends this sounded very shocking, but it was not shocking at all. He wished to lay down two conditions for the finding of work for the unemployed. He held, in the first place, that they would never get the consent of the public to find the necessary amount of money—and it would take a great deal of money to employ the total number of unemployed by the State—unless they were willing to deal with the certain proportion of men who are able to work, but would not. Their advance must be made upon two lines. They must find work for those able and willing to work, and they would have to make work those who were able but unwilling, and he believed there was no class in the world more willing to make idle men work than the working man who was willing to work. He contended they had no right to go to the public for the money needed, unless they protected the public from the loafer—the man who was a curse to his neighbours and his to family. They would have to provide adult reformatories for those who were able but not willing to work, or they would have no moral right to go to the public for money to provide work for the willing, and, what was still more difficult, the machinery to provide work. He was talking a few weeks ago to one of the greatest financial authorities in the country, the chairman of one of the largest banking companies, and he asked him whether he thought afforestation was sound from an economic point of view. He reminded this gentleman, who was a free trader, of the arguments used so often that whatever we imported we paid for by the export of our manufactures, and, anticipating arguments which might be used on this line against the Government's adopting the business of afforestation, asked if it could not be urged that we should lose the corresponding export trade in manufactures we now have if we ceased to import the timber. His answer was that we should not lose the trade, because we should be employing our own people, who would consume our manufactures. Again, he said, speaking from the investment point of view, he knew nothing so likely to be remunerative in the future as the production of timber; but when asked why he did not himself invest in it, he said the return was not quick enough. If the return was not quick enough for a rich man, what must it be for a poor man—and they heard from the other side, the Party of so many landowners, that they were all very poor! He believed the national investment of waste human labour upon waste lands in this country was one of the finest investments the country could make. He believed it would pay in actual cash as well as the Suez Canal, and beyond that would give a great return in happiness and relief to a large part of our population. He held, however, that as a condition for relief works, so long as they were unremunerative they should give the worker rather less than the standard rate of wages. Another condition was that in finding work for one man they should not drive or force others out of work, as had happened through operations of some charitable agencies in London. They must produce something which was useful and would find a ready market, without competing with existing trades, and he thought timber such a commodity. Coast erosion repair had been mentioned, but he doubted whether that would always be economic, and nobody wanted to spend £100,000 of public money only to get £10,000 in return. If we employed public money in relief works of any kind which were not remunerative we were always running a risk of creating a reaction against this kind of public help. It was in his opinion very desirable that every experiment in the way of finding employment for the unemployed should be economically sound in itself to be of any lasting benefit, so that we should not make a charity of finding work for the unemployed. In doing this he would object to give the standard rate of wages for emergency work. For instance, in regard to afforestation, he thought that those who would be employed upon it and who were not able to find other work and could not do a regular workman's work should not have the same rate of wage as the regular workman until they could do his work. It was all very well to say that they should give every employee of the State full wages, but he held that while standard rates of wages should be given in all works carried on for the public good, such as tramways, post office business, and so on, in a department undertaken specially for the employment of the unemployed, at all events if the work was unremunerative, something less than standard rates should be paid to those for whose benefit the work was carried on. It was in the interests of the unemployed themselves that they should have a little less than the standard rate of wage. He could imagine some of his friends saying that that would not do for the working man because it would lower the rate of wages. He did not think it would do so. They must remember the condition he had laid down. The work was to be new work. Not one job the fewer but so many the more. Fewer people being out of work must tend to raise wages and not to lower them. Then as soon as the work became remunerative and not a relief work the men would be paid better wages. He thought afforestation ought to have been adopted long ago. It was very successful in India, where £500,000 was coming annually from the forests. It would be a paying business in the long run and would help to relieve the labour market of much surplus labour which from the industrial point of view was not a blessing, but a curse to it. We had no right to pose as a Christian country while we saw the piteous spectacle of men able to work yet unable to such an extent as now existed to find it.

MR. BRACE (Glamorganshire, S.) said he associated himself with the proposal before the House and earnestly regretted that no measure had been foreshadowed in the King's Speech for dealing with the unemployed; but he was not without hope that the President of the Local Government Board, in whom he had the fullest confidence, would be able to offer a satisfactory explanation. Year by year the question of the unemployed became more pressing. The wisdom of the nation was directed and would be directed to production at the lowest cost, and every captain of industry was devoting a larger portion of his time and intelligence to inventions by which the cost of labour might be decreased. It was impossible to introduce labour-saving machines without displacing labour, and the Labour Party held that it was the duty of the State when a man was out of employment to step in and make some provision to prevent him from becoming demoralised through want of employment. He had given some attention to the question and he pinned his faith very largely to afforestation. It was in his opinion a practical scheme which would carry them a long way towards a solution of the problem. In his district, where the mines were in the valleys, hundreds and thousands of tons of pitwood could be grown on the barren hillsides which were of no use for agriculture, but were suited admirably for planting trees for pitwood which would find a market close at hand. He was persuaded that this was not a matter that could be dealt with locally or municipally. It must be dealt with by the nation. It was a problem that was confined to particular districts. It seemed to him, therefore, that the resources of the nation should be used, and he hoped this progressive Government and the progressive President of the Local Government Board would be able to show that the Government were really in earnest in dealing with the question of the unemployed upon practical lines.

MR. PICKERSGILL (Bethnal Green, S.W.) thought it idle to suggest that the pledges made by the Government to deal with the question of the unemployed were redeemed by promises relating to technical education, or by any proposal of social reform contained in the King's Speech. They were admirable proposals no doubt, and would be heartily supported by the House, but they must by their very nature be slow in their operation, and, however successful, the most they could expect from them would be that they would prevent the introduction of a new generation of the unemployed. Meanwhile, they had a great mass of unemployed and unemployable, due partly to the transitory state of labour and partly to the neglect of the community of its most obvious elementary duty It was an exceptional situation and demanded an exceptional remedy. He thought they might look to Ireland for the remedy. There was a distinct precedent in the West of Ireland, which was the country of experiments, which we in this country followed with lagging steps. The present Leader of the Opposition brought into existence the Congested Districts Board, for the purpose of dealing with the agricultural slump. That Board was now working quite outside ordinary administrative principles, and the founders of it recognised that the matter justified exceptional treatment. The Board made roads and bridges, and in other ways improved the locality, and for this purpose it employed local men at fair wages. It had also established an entirely new industry, which might be described as an exotic so far as Ireland was concerned, by starting a carpet factory. But in London the Central Unemployed Body was doing very little except that they had ear-marked £30,000 for the purpose of promoting emigration. If they were sending to Canada the bad as well as the good there would not be so much objection to the process, but they were transferring the upper crust of the unemployed. And he said most emphatically that this country was the poorer by the expatriation of these people. They took the best of the unemployed and left only the residuum in this country, which he did not think was fair, and he thought the President of the Local Government Board should take some steps in regard to the matter. With regard to unemployment, what was the Central Unemployed Committee doing? He found that in January it was employing 1,562 men—470 at Hollesley Bay, 150 at Farnbridge, 670 by the London County Council, and 272 by four London boroughs. That number was only given a certain modicum of work. How many unemployed mustered in December and January last? The number on the register was over 10,000. So far as numbers were concerned, at all events, the machinery was absolutely inadequate, and he thought he might say had broken down. There was one matter of detail which he would like to press upon the right hon. Gentleman, viz., the great delay which occurred between the application and the giving of employment. This had a mischievous effect, because the best men did not register themselves until the very last moment, and after their resources were exhausted. The Secretary of the Unemployed Committee had recently stated that at least one month elapsed between the application and the granting of work. He thought that was economically wrong, and certainly it was very inhumane that men should be kept waiting in this way. Reference had been made to the farm colony experiment of the Poplar Guardians. It seemed likely to succeed; it started well, and then it failed. He was afraid that the Local Government Board was in some respects responsible for that failure, because the farm colony had been diverted from its original purpose, and it became little better than a branch of the Poplar workhouse. He associated himself entirely with the hon. Member for East Leeds in his plea for afforestation. Apart from planting waste land, a good deal might be done in various parts of the country by making a better use of Crown lands. In Hampshire, the Woods and Forests Department some years ago called in a distinguished scientist, Dr. Schlick, who reported on the Alice Holt Woods in Hampshire, and in his report he sketched out a plan which if carried out in its entirety would have given considerable local employment in forestry operations, conducted at periods when the agricultural industry was slack. He respectfully suggested to the President of the Local Government Board that he should use his influence with the Woods and Forests Department to get them to carry out the scheme in its entirety. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would recognise the gravity of the case, and that as regarded London he would see that the machinery at present provided was utterly inadequate. He further hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would make such a reply as would render it unnecessary to press the Amendment to a Division.

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford) wished to make an appeal on behalf of a district South of the Thames where they had a large number of unemployed. Last year, in some of the districts, great efforts were made to find them employment. He urged the Government to realise that this great problem of the unemployed must be dealt with from a national standpoint. If the emigration upon a large scale of our strongest and healthiest men continued there would be a call for another Royal Commission to inquire into the deterioration of the race. The Prime Minister had already indicated that he believed in home colonisation. Outside all our large towns and cities there were extensive areas suitable for afforestation where population was wanted, and where the land was waiting to receive the workers who ought to be put upon it. Might he suggest to the President of the Local Government Board that he could do a great deal towards meeting this want of employment by introducing as early as possible one of the Bills mentioned in the King's Speech. Having been a member of the Select Committee which inquired into rural housing, he was convinced that one thing that would put a much larger number of people upon the land was the supplying of rural cottages. At the present time many people in agricultural districts had to leave their localities because there was no cottage accommodation for them. He desired in conclusion to associate himself with what had been said on this question by previous speakers

MR. CROOKS (Woolwich) said that during the debate on the last Amendment one Member of the Opposition had asked what was the use of having a cheap article at 1d. if they had not got 1d. to buy it. The same hon. Member then proceeded to suggest the adoption of a policy which would make that article 1½d. and that was a thing which he could not understand. There were a good many sides to the unemployed question. Personally he regretted that nearly eight days of this session had been wasted up to now. Some day he believed they would get the King's Speech and the Amendments to it disposed of in one day, and then they would be able to get on with their work. There was no more important question than the one under discussion. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for South Dublin took a real interest in this matter when he was a member of the Government, and it was not his fault that they did not get a better Bill. He certainly looked to the present Government to amend that Act, and he asked them in all seriousness to look upon it as a bantling which required nursing into vigorous life instead of throttling it. There was plenty of work in London that could be usefully taken up, but the everlasting cry was: Where was the recoupment to come from? There was work for 600 men at Hackney-marshes, but while people were haggling nothing was done. The working man might be here and there a loafer, but the loafer was not confined to one class. He saw people about in the park and elsewhere wearing top hats and spats on their boots, and they did not show any very keen desire for a job. These people spoke of the unemployed as wastrels who would not work if they had it, but the people who uttered those words were of the same class. As had been pointed out by the hon. Member for Bethnal Green, when a man asked for a job he had to get his name registered. In the case of a man from another district it might be necessary to ask questions, but surely when it was known in a place that the character of a man who applied for work would bear the strictest investigation, the fact that he was asking for a job because he could not get work in any other way should be enough. This system of inquiries delayed the administration of relief or the provision of temporary work. Some authorities appeared to have gone quite mad over the emigration of the unemployed. He had received that very day six applications for a character on behalf of working men and their families who were arranging to go to Canada. He contended that we wanted all these people at home, though he would be very glad to subscribe something for the fares to Canada, or some other place, of the Members of the other House, in the hope that they might find useful employment there instead of wrecking the measures which were sent up to them. They were not the people the country needed. The toiler, after all, was the person who had to be looked after. It was said that there was much less unemployment to-day than a year ago, and still less than two years ago. He was not going to argue about percentages, because unemployment was still too large. He knew that since he had been away from the House he and his fellow guardians had passed twenty cases for relief under Article 10 of the Poor Law in order to keep body and soul together. These applicants were outside the scope of the Unemployed Act; they had received relief and could not be counted. He himself had been a teetotaler all his life, and in spite of the fact that he was a mechanic and a member of a trade union, he had known what it was to go hungry. There were plenty of better men than himself who had to do that at the present moment. The unfortunate circumstance about this question was that, not being of great Imperial interest, it did not inspire any enthusiasm either inside or outside the House; and when some of them had tried to save the lives of hungry workmen and their families they were too often met by hesitating doubt and delay. Last year the Poplar Guardians tried to keep the life's blood in its unemployed. They fed 600 men and their wives and children; and the result the House knew in the light of what he had gone through. They were accused of wasting other people's money, making paupers, and encouraging sweating. It was the sweating employers who had made these people paupers. It was the Poplar Guardians who had kept them up to the working pitch. That was the first thing they had to do, for if people were out of work and underfed for a time the less able were they to resume work. They relieved 3,000 cases at the rate of 5s. 11½d. per head for eighteen weeks, and that was what was described as wasting the people's money. London was at present divided into thirty districts, and the rates were levied separately instead of in one assessment over the whole. The result was that the poor were made to keep the poor, and when the poor had done so they were abused for doing it. He asked the President of the Local Government Board to give a promise that this matter would be dealt with. The right hon. Gentleman had said that no man degenerated so quickly as an unemployed man. His spirit became broken, and, after all, that was one of the most valuable qualities that a man could possess. The guardians sent the men to the labour farm colony, with the assent of the Local Government Board. It had been said that they made of the farm only an able-bodied workhouse, but at any rate they turned the talents of these men to the advantage of the whole community. The late President of the Local Government Board sent twenty-four men out to Canada, and these men, who formerly did not know a mangold-wurzel from a clod of clay, were now usefully employed on the land in that colony. What was wanted, however, was to give these people a chance in this country on the land, and it was cheaper to do that at once than to keep them on out-door relief. What he wanted to know was what the Government Departments were going to do? At present there was no organisation in either the Board of Trade or the Local Government Board to deal with work on to which, in times of depression such as there occurred this winter and last winter, men could be turned, for all that the distress committees had been able to do was to emigrate 1 per cent. of them. Why should not the Local Government Board send a circular round the country to find out what practical work there could be done in road-making, house-building, and afforestation in times of commercial depression? The Local Government Board could decide what work was of a national character, and then raise a loan to carry it on. The reports from the country could be docketed in the office of the department and the whole thing ought to be done with the greatest ease.

*The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): The House is to be congratulated generally upon the excellent spirit and tone of the arguments which have been imported into this interesting debate by nearly every one who has taken part in it. I will not deal with administrative points, many of which have been referred to this evening but which are not altogether germane to the Amendment to the Address proposed by the hon. Member. When an opportunity comes for criticism of the distress committees and their relation to the Local Government Board, I shall be prepared to deal with those points better than at present. Personally there was no need for the hon. Member for South West Ham who moved the Amendment to apologise to the House for not possessing university training, or an academic manner. These are not characteristic of South West Ham. I would rather he spoke, as he did, of the simple annals of the poor in a speech racy of the soil. The hon. Member had said that the grant of £200,000 which had been extracted from the Chancellor of the Exchequer was miserably inadequate, and he followed that up by stating that even £5,000,000 would not be enough for the unemployed.

Mr. THORNE: I said, to solve the question.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I would venture to put this to the hon. Member that, whether £200,000 or £5,000,000 were spent for the relief of the unemployed under the present industrial system, we have got to be very careful as trade unionists, labour men, and citizens that that money should not be used by the employers, as the old Poor Law was used, as a bonus in favour of low wages, as a subsidy to irregular employment, and as a boon in aid of the employer at the cost of rates, and thus lower the standard, both of wages, and of comfort of the old people. The hon. Member for South West Ham made one significant omission, and if he will allow me I will put it in. It is significant that not a single Member of the House has said a word about the lack of promptitude in dealing with the necessities of the cases or accused my Department of niggardliness or tardiness in responding to the applications that have been made by the various Distress Committees. Every Member who represents in this House one of the sixty districts with the officials of which I have come into friendly, kindly, and prompt communication has, and I thank them for it, had nothing but a tribute of praise for the way in which I have, during the last six months, day in and day out, discussed the question of these grants with the various Distress Committees. The hon. Member for South West Ham would like to know the facts. In January, 1905, there were 26,000 paupers, indoor and outdoor, in West Ham, and in January, 1906, the number was 22,000. I am glad to say the number is now less than 18,000. In the borough of Poplar there are now 3,000 fewer paupers than there were eighteen months ago, and nearly 4,000 less than there were two years ago. Altogether I have granted £11,600 to West Ham for various purposes. The hon. Member for South West Ham has said the present period of good trade will rapidly pass away. I do not agree with that. In my opinion trade is going to be better. The evidence of the *Labour Gazette*, on which hon. Members can rely, points in that direction. I do not say that with regard to the building trade, which each winter contributes to the ranks of the unemployed. There are 1,300,000 men engaged in the building trade at the present time. It must be recognised that foundations in the building trade are henceforth going to be taken out less by the navvy than by the steam grab. The plasterers, bricklayers, and masons must recognise, as they are not sufficiently inclined to do, that the engineer, the boiler-maker, the blacksmith, and the riveter are now enjoying a greater proportion of trade formerly the exclusive possession of the stone workers and the bricklayers. Between 1881 and 1891, 35,000 men entered the building trade; but between 1891 and 1901 it was entered by 327,000 men. These significant figures should be borne in mind, and either fewer apprentices should be sent into this trade or it must be frankly recognised that the conditions are altered. I congratulate the Member for the Gorton Division on his services to the steel workers by securing shorter hours and by the adoption of three shifts as against two and so absorbing 2,000 unemployed men in less than three years. I commend the example of the steel workers, gas stokers, and London compositors in abolishing overtime, and so distributing the work to be done over a larger number. As to the suggestion that an organisation should exist to pick up a man the moment he falls out of work, I would view with apprehension the universal organisation of State relief works of whatever kind. Personally, I do not intend to attempt, and he would be no friend of labour who did attempt, the organisation of State labour on the relief-works line, if it even approximates to that organisation which was attempted in Paris in 1848, when it was laid down that when trade reached a certain condition there should be State or municipal relief-works, which should provide work for the men who would otherwise be out of work. The effect of that would be that masters would care nothing about setting their own industrial house in order. It would be a premium on casual labour and a bonus for unemployment, and the final result would be the aggregation of workmen in crowded quarters and the drawing of them from the country to the towns. What we ought to do, as organisers of trade and industry, is, so far as we can by legislative enactment, so to organise in the towns as to turn the stream of migration back to the country, which will do more good than many of the remedies that have been suggested. We have been told that the Government, in this direction, have done nothing. I ask any reasonable man not wedded to palliatives, not enamoured of pauperising relief works, to look at the King's Speech, and, when he has read it, admit, as he must, that the organic changes promised by the Government as a substitute for palliatives, transient in their effect and demoralising in their consequences, have been carried out. The unemployed difficulty in the towns is increased by the rush from the rural to the urban districts, and a Scottish Land Bill, promised in the King's Speech, is a step in the right direction for remedying that. Then there is the Bill for the reduction of the hours of labour in mines, and for an Amendment of the patent laws, the effect of which must be to encourage new trades and facilitate new industries. That is free trade. If trades have been locked up by absurd regulations fettered by the red tape of Departments and obscurantist legislation, that is no reason why we should not free those trades from endless trammels and shackles, and that is what the new patent law will do. The hon. Member for South West Ham must remember that much of the money required by the local authorities to grapple with the land question in congested districts is unavailable, and their efforts to deal with the housing question are unavailable so long as land valuation is in its present form. Small holdings are also included in the King's Speech. Moreover, the Government can pride themselves on the fact that by their Trade Disputes Bill of last year they have enabled labour, skilled and unskilled, to obtain higher wages and shorter hours through its organisations. That in itself must lead to more employment in the building trade; and it also gives an opportunity for a man to ensure for himself a good home, as well as being an inducement to cultivate the soil. Mr. Speaker, I have been criticised, but only inferentially, it is true, upon the administration of this Act. It has been suggested that I have availed myself of technical reasons for refusing grants under the Unemployed Act. That is not so. Few men stand less on convention than I do; and as for red tape, I have ordered green for my office. To some thirty of the districts from which the Board have received applications we have granted sums varying from £31,000 to the Central Unemployed Body of London—which always has money in advance of its actual needs—to nearly £12,000 to West Ham, £3,600 to Tottenham, £2,675 to Edmonton, £3,180 to East Ham, and sums of £10,000 each to Ireland and Scotland, the whole amounting to £90,000 up to the 10th inst. with another six or eight weeks to go in which applications may be made. Now what has been done with them?

MR. THORNE: I have a letter dated 15th February, from the Secretary of the Unemployed District Committee in which he states that £7,000 has been granted.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I may inform the hon. Member that £4,000 was sent yesterday. Of course he could not have knowledge of that, and I do not blame him.

MR. THORNE: I am very pleased to know that.

MR. JOHN BURNS: But, Sir, it has been suggested that we have not responded as liberally and as promptly as we might have done. ["Hear, hear."] There is only one Member who says "hear, hear!" and he asked me to make a contribution for the benefit of his district, but for a purpose for which the Act was not instituted. I did the next best thing and gave the locality a loan in the ordinary way for coast erosion work. I sincerely regret that I could not make the loan for a longer period, but I could not supplement it out of this fund, for to have done so would have been to act contrary to the provisions of the Act. Let us deal with the facts. Hollesley Bay Colony is getting £550 a week subsidy from the Local Government Board to be spent on less than 300 men, costing, on an average, of over £2 per week per man. Many will think that so long as that amount of money is spent there will always be plenty of people willing to go to Hollesley Bay, and that lots who are there will be very reluctant to leave for work in London or elsewhere. Therefore a simple statement like that disposes of the charge that we have not been either prompt or generous. I do not know whether the hon. Member for North West Ham is here; I am not asking for testimonials; I never do and I do not want them; but the hon. Member for North West Ham surely will admit that in maintaining the colony at Ockendon I have been as reasonable and prompt as could be expected. If that be so, as it is, that disposes of the criticism as to lack of promptitude and generosity. What have we done for coast erosion work? I have only to say that my work at the Local Government Board, like Sam Weller's, is "extensive and peculiar." I am at once farmer, market gardener, horticulturist, engineer, surveyor, and Poor Law supervisor. Beyond the work in connection with Hollesley Bay and Ockendon, I have had added coast erosion and reclamation of land. No complaint has been made on that score. I have handed over £17,000 for one scheme of land reclamation and coast erosion, carried out by the central unemployed body at Fambridge in Essex, and I have received no other application either for coast erosion or reclamation work. Then I have been asked what I am doing for afforestation. I hope that on the matter of afforestation, with the co-operation of the Office of Works, the Board of Agriculture, the Department of Woods and Forests, and my own Department, and also with the co-operation of some landlords and local authorities, we may be able to evolve the nucleus of a national afforestation scheme. The hon. Member for East Leeds referred to the question of afforestation which he remitted to me, with my practical knowledge, to deal with at once. The hon. Member knows—no one better—that I have done all that man could be asked to do. I went down to Leeds in my holidays to inspect the water shed of the Leeds Corporation. I saw some 360 acres of land which, in my judgment, and in the judgment of experts to whom I went, was capable of afforestation. Immediately I got back to London I sent them down £1,000 as a first instalment for unemployed labour upon this afforestation scheme. Although the result has been sad and melancholy, I am not going to be distressed by transient difficulties. I gave that £1,000 as a first instalment of the afforestation scheme; 293 men were offered employment, and only 139 accepted; 102 only commenced work; 56 threw it up very soon; and at this moment there are only 46 out of 293 who were offered employment engaged upon the very forestry work that I have been blamed for not encouraging.

Mr. O'GRADY: May I point out to the right hon. Gentleman the fact, that there is only accommodation in this valley for fifty men, and that the average number of men staying there is twenty or thirty.

*Mr. JOHN BURNS: I can assure the hon. Member he is mistaken. I went there to the quarters, and they are better quarters than navvies have on any railway work, and no body of men could have a better caretaker and matron to look after them than the buxom matron I saw there. So much for afforestation, and I am not going to be distressed by the difficulties of this experiment. On the contrary, we are going on with it, and if any other local authority has a watershed at its disposal which we can similarly treat, I am disposed not to stand before difficulties, but to go on; at this moment we are doing our best in conjunction with the Department of Woods and Forests and the Board of Agriculture to put this work on a permanent footing, so as to enable a large number of men in proper districts, and at the right time, to be employed. May I sum up the account of things which we have attempted out of our grants? We have tried afforestation, we have helped coast erosion, we have granted money to the two Labour Colonies, and we have helped emigration, only when voluntarily demanded by workmen. We have granted a sum to West Ham to enable them to take men out of the district; but whatever measures we may approve of generally, cannot be applied to a district which, from a practical point of view, is waterlogged by having more men within its limits than there is work for. I have suggested to surveyors, engineers and other officers of local authorities a better organisation for the relief of unemployment. I have been in communication with the heads of other Governmental departments to stop overtime, and to stop, wherever possible, discharges at times when the industrial conditions are adverse to the obtaining of employment; and the Post Office have adopted our suggestion to employ, not those who have already work and are receiving salaries, but men recommended by local district committees, at Christmas and at other times of pressure. In a word, I have lost no opportunity of dealing with many of the suggested remedies which I have been criticised in ignorance for not doing. May I deal for a moment with the suggestion of the hon. Member for Tottenham. He thanked me for what I have done for his district. I may say that I have done no more than my duty. The hon. Member warned the House to remember that we have to be very careful, in the creation of new industries or in stimulating philanthropic enterprises, that we do not defeat our object, however good our intentions may be. He drew attention to the fact that certain religious organisations, unguarded by economic knowledge and foresight, often did things in which the remedy was worse than the disease. At the same time I recognise certain dangers in the way of injuring people already in work. At the present time there are in Leicester, London, and elsewhere, decent, industrious wood-choppers who are being made paupers by the score, because wood-chopping work is being done by religious associations. That applies to many other industries. I have received complaints from Ipswich and Felixstowe, that the professional agricultural labourers and market gardeners are being dismissed and turned into paupers by reason of the operations of the Labour Colony at Hollesley Bay, these people coming up to London and in turn going to swell the ranks of the Colony at Hollesley, and making more paupers. This is a serious matter, but I have done my best to grapple with it. Tariff reform and broadening the basis of taxation have been suggested as a remedy. I assert that in countries where they have tariff reform and protection the percentage of unemployment is much higher than here.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley): No, no.

*MR. JOHN BURNS: The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Bordesley says "No." Has the right hon. Gentleman looked at page 76 of the last American Report on the unemployed which was delivered at his house a week ago? I make this statement, and I challenge contradiction, that the maximum of unemployed in this country, whether of skilled or unskilled labourers, is never more than the maximum in the United States of America. In the last American Report on the unemployed I find that the average unemployment in New York State over a period of three years, including 1903, 1904, and 1905, is 17 per cent. That is for the last busy time in America. If we go back to 1897, 1898, and 1900 it will be found that the percentage of unemployment ranges from 16 to 26 per cent.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: What trades is the right hon. Gentleman alluding to?

*MR. JOHN BURNS: That applies to the whole of the organised trades in New York.

MR. JESSE COLLINGS: How about Germany?

*MR. JOHN BURNS: We do not want to hear any more about Germany, but three years ago when a newspaper, that shall be nameless, said that this country had lost the electrical industry to Germany, I, as an engineer, went to Germany to examine the statement at first hand. I found there that the percentage of men engaged in engineering and the electrical industry who were out of work was 26 per cent., while in this country, taking the same number of workmen, it was only 2 per cent. I admit that the electrical industry of Berlin is better than it was three years ago. The number of men out of work there is not larger than in the similar class of men at home. We happen to have in connection with that industry an increasing area of work in this country. I wish to correct a statement which was made in regard to the number of unemployed. There are over 15,000 men in the country at this moment engaged in connection with labour paid for out of public funds, and we have had no complaints made about the administration of this Act during the experimental period. Now I shall be asked, What do the Government intend to do for the amendment of this Act? My reply to that is that the reasons given last year—when trade was worse, and when the unemployed were more numerous—which induced the Government to give an annual grant for two or three years until the Commission had reported, hold good in my judgment more strongly now than they did a year ago. This question, as hon. Members have admitted, is one of the most delicate, difficult, and serious with which we have to deal. Not only is my department concerned, but also the Home Office, the Board of Trade, the Board of Agriculture, the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, and many other departments. They are not in the pillory to-night, but I am, and being a loyal colleague, I intend to take upon my shoulders not only my own responsibility but theirs as well. I would not be worthy of my salt as a Minister unless I did, but I do ask members like the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil not to expect too much under the circumstances. The hon. Member said last week that we wanted greater access to the land,

and he argued that the land question was at the bottom of this problem. I ask the hon. Member to realise the logical consequence of that statement, and not to expect too much from us as an administrative Ministry organising to the best of our ability, and according to our means, what is admittedly a palliative measure. I do ask the hon. Member not to misunderstand or misinterpret what I was reported to have said the other night. He rather critically said that I have suggested that technical education was a remedy for the problem of the unemployed. I was distributing the prizes the other evening at Battersea Polytechnic to the lads and lasses attending both the domestic economy and the manual instruction classes, and I ventured to ingeminate the need for and the wisdom of greater training in the subjects taught at polytechnics. I also said that too often men were out of work, not from insufficiency of employment, but from deficiency of skill and weakness of character. There is nothing unfair or untrue in that. Men are unemployed in many cases because they are unskilled, not because they are poor but because they are ignorant and unable to adapt themselves to new conditions and changes in industries. I urged those whom I was addressing to lay hold of technical instruction as a means of reducing unemployment and giving people opportunities which they do not now possess. The hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil, who has read the prison statistics, ought to know that 20 per cent. of the poor people in our prisons cannot read or write. I venture to say that if the percentage of people who cannot read or write were reduced, there would be far fewer people in jail. They would be equipped with knowledge and intelligence, and they would join trade unions and friendly societies, and adapt themselves to a higher standard of life, which they cannot do at present on account of their ignorance which leads them into crime. I should be false to my position as a Labour Leader if I did not urge my fellows to take the course which I suggested. I should be false to my position if I did not remind Labour Members that, while they are talking about £200,000 for the relief of the unemployed as insufficient, while we are told that £5,000,000 would be insufficient to deal with the question, there is the melancholy fact that the working classes of this country spend regularly every year anything from £75,000,000 to £100,000,000 on drink. I do not attribute to that circumstance more than is due to it. The total drink bill for the year is £160,000,000, and the amount spent by the working classes is variously estimated between the figures I have given. I am glad to say that the total bill is £22,000,000 less than it was five years ago. If the money spent by the working classes on drink were spent by the bread winners in furnishing their homes there would be more work for the cabinet makers of Leeds, the constituency represented by the hon. Member who seconded the Amendment, because there would be more suites of furniture required. If instead of people living in one room "cribbed, cabined, and confined" in the slums of towns, the money were spent on higher house rents there would be more work for the bricklayer, the carpenter, and the labourer. If it were diverted to higher and better things there would be an incentive and stimulus given to all branches of industry which are now depressed. What I stated at the Polytechnic the other night I stand by now. May I, in conclusion, say that we stand by our statement of last year. We are not going to add another link to the pauperising chain of relief works and demoralising employment. We are not going to deal so much with symptoms as we are going to deal with causes. The Government by dealing with organic change—the colonisation of England, the housing of the poor in rural districts, allotments, small holdings, licensing, and Scottish land Bills—are doing the best thing in the permanent interest of the unemployed. I ask the Labour Members to rest satisfied with the work which my Department has done, to withdraw the Amendment, and let the Government get to business.

Mr. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.): No one can desire to deprive the right hon. Gentleman the President of the Local Government Board of the intense enjoyment he derives from occasions like the present. It is always interesting to listen to his autobiographical reminiscences; he comes every time to the scratch with an inexhaustible supply of information. I asked myself when I listened to the right hon. Gentleman what would have happened to me when I was at the Local Government Board if I had made reference to social legislation and housing legislation, and had announced the sound doctrines to which the right hon. Gentleman has given expression. One thing is certain, that the Labour Members would have offered uncompromising opposition to me; they would have poured scorn upon me, and divided the House against me, and every Member now occupying the Government Benches would have voted with them. The President of the Local Government Board is to be congratulated on many things. He has told us that he is making a real start on drastic reforms in his Department, and that he is not going to be bound up any longer by red tape. I think that the Leader of the House, when he reads the morning papers, will rub his eyes to find that there have been two discussions to-day in which opposite opinions were expressed by his followers. It is most remarkable that one hon. Gentleman who is an advocate of a distinct free trade doctrine, when a question of afforestation was raised, said that that would be an interference with the great industry of timber importation; and then we were told that we should not interfere with the great shipping industry. I honestly regret, with no desire to take Party advantage of it, that the Government have only been able to give us the fag-end of an evening to discuss the situation of unemployment. The interesting speech of the President of the Local Government Board, compressed as it was, showed that we could have spent a whole day on this discussion; and I know that if we, on this side of the House, when in office had adopted the course taken by the Government scorn would have been poured on us by the Labour Members for the curtailment of the debate. The subject under discussion engaged my most anxious attention at a time when the problem was more difficult than at the present moment. The numbers of unemployed were greater, and the pressure on the local authorities and on the Government was heavier. I confess that I listened with astonishment to the figures as to pauperism quoted by the President of the Local Government Board. These figures form no real criterion of the condition of unemployment. In order to secure a permanent solution of the unemployed question we must discuss its causes before seeking to apply remedies. The action of the Government of which I was a Member has been severely criticised; but when the action of the present Local Government Board is challenged the reply is that things are not so bad as they are represented to be, and that a Royal Commission appointed by their predecessors is now sitting and has not yet reported. I do not blame hon. Gentlemen opposite for their caution. But I do urge the President of the Local Government Board to see that no step is taken to stop one important change which has taken place. Previously action by boards of guardians meant the pauperisation of the men and their families, and other bodies were attempting to find employment for the unemployed as a charity. They were doing it in an unregulated form and they were doing it without any prospect of the men being better off when their employment ceased than they were when it began. It was to put an end to this state of things which I considered undesirable, on that ground amongst others, that we thought it right to establish a central body to deal with the unemployed. No doubt they have made mistakes and might have done better work, but they have made a beginning. I hope we are coming to better times in regard to the condition of the unemployed, but emergencies in regard to them arise suddenly, and I would urge upon the Government to take care that they are not caught napping and that they will see that the bodies now in existence make reasonable provision for any sudden emergency. At this late hour I do not want to discuss this question in a jaded House. It is a question far too complicated to embark upon its discussion at this period of the evening. It opens up considerations and suggestions of all kinds, some of them dangerous and some of them feasible, and all I can say is that I congratulate the President of the Local Government Board on the courageous line which he has taken. I consider that for the President of the Local Government Board in a Progressive Government and who is also a Labour Member to take up such an attitude requires great courage, and I hope that the outcome of his remarks will be a peaceful solution of one of the most difficult of our social problems.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said that speaking for himself and for the Party with which he was associated they were in the main in hearty agreement with what the right hon Gentleman had said about technical instruction and temperance. But they protested against the attempt which was being made to persuade the public into the belief that the unemployment at present existing was due either to drink or to the lack of technical instruction. He admitted, however, that some of the unemployed did drink, but if they became sober it could not be disguised that others who were now employed would be dismissed in order that they might find work. His complaint was that by raising questions of this kind right hon. and hon. Gentlemen were misleading public opinion, because the real causes of unemployment were not brought home to the public. He could give a score of causes, but he would content himself with taking one illustration. He instanced the case of the railway servants. During the last few years, owing to the increased size of engines, the extra length of trains, and so forth, 10,000 less men were now employed than formerly in the goods and mineral department. The men now employed performed the same amount of work as would have been done by themselves and these men had not machinery taken the place of those who were now out of employment. That was a case in which no amount of abstinence from strong drink and no amount of technical skill would have made the slightest difference. What the country required to be brought face to face with was that the increasing power of machinery, and the consequent decrease in the number of people employed on the land, were the root causes of the present unemployment, and, therefore, that they had to approach the question from that point of view. The President of the Local Government Board had told them that the Government were going to stand to their pledges of last year. What were those pledges? In the King's Speech there was a distinct pledge of a Bill to amend the Unemployed Workmen's Act of 1905. On the 19th July last year, when the right hon. Gentleman was introducing his proposal in regard to the £200,000, he alluded to this matter in the most definite manner. It appeared from the report in Hansard that the right hon. Gentleman promised an Amendment of that Act. Therefore those who accused the Government of not having kept the pledge given, first, in the King's Speech and, secondly, in the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, were justified in their attitude. Their complaint was twofold. First, that the powers of the existing Act had not been administered to the fullest extent to deal with this evil, and, secondly, that the Government had not dealt with the question in such a way as to enable local authorities to grant more relief. Further, the statement of the President of the Local Government Board had led the House to believe that £2 per week was being spent on the 300 men who were employed at Hollesley Farm. That statement was grossly misleading. It was true the total cost of the colony worked out at £2 a man, but that included the capital expenditure on thousands of fruit trees and fruit bushes that had been planted and the general improvement of the estate. The cost per man was 5s. 6d. a week for food, the allowance made to his family who were kept in London was 14s. 6d., and the other charges averaged 4s. a week, so the total cost per man was 24s. In return for that there was the produce from the fruit, vegetables, poultry, and so on. He now came to the most serious part of his complaint against the Local Government Board. The right hon. Gentleman had at last been converted to the belief that the real solution of the problem was to get the surplus population back to the land. He used to oppose it.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said he never opposed it, but he did not think much of it. What he thought was that it was much better to keep the people on the land than to let them migrate to the towns.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE said that was exactly what they were going to do. The right hon. Gentleman had said that the Local Government Board was no longer to be strangled by red tape, but they heard that the Laindon Colony was strangled by the Local Government Board. Deputations had waited on the right hon. Gentleman and pointed out that the scheme for finding employment for women had not been able to come into operation for lack of sufficient funds, *MR. JOHN BURNS said the hon. Gentleman was not stating the facts. He (Mr. Burns) gave the Central Unemployed Body three months ago over £1,000 to commence. Three workrooms in London were now in operation. They received £1,000 last week and had now, owing to the recoupment from clothing produced, a considerable balance in hand.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE asked whether it was not the case that the application of West Ham to establish a workroom had been refused.

*MR. JOHN BURNS pointed out that the hon. Member did not mention West Ham. That application was before the Board at the present time.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE said that very likely after the discussion to-night the grant would be made, but the fact remained that it had been refused. The London Central Unemployed Committee, with the sanction of the Local Government Board, had a certain scheme in hand for turning the stream of migration to the town back to the country. Their policy was to take men from the towns, and find out by actual work those best adapted to agricultural pursuits, give them a training, and finally provide an allotment, and the means of beginning to farm it, but the amount of £7,000 required for the scheme had been refused, and was still refused. So that to that extent the Hollesley Bay Colony and its administrators had been hampered in their work. Let the House compare that with the money misused on emigration last year. Last year the Committee spent £17,000 on emigration.

*MR. JOHN BURNS said he did not give a single penny to the London Central Body last year or this for emigration. He thought the sins, if any, of the Central Body ought to be visited on that body, and not laid on his shoulders.

*MR. KEIR HARDIE said he was pointing out that this money was being spent on emigration. Seventeen thousand pounds was spent last year and £40,000 was proposed for this year. His point was this. The Local Government Board had refused their sanction to spend £7,000 on the purchase of the Woodbridge estate, but had sanctioned £57,00 being spent on sending men to Canada. This money, instead of being spent on emigrating our best men to Canada, should have been spent in settling them upon the land of England. Surely that was a very sensible policy, but it was one to which the Local Government Board had neither given encouragement nor lent sanction. Under the Unemployed Act there were certain powers for combining two or more similar authorities for the purpose of carrying out the Act. Twenty-nine authorities had applied for grants out of this £200,000, and had been sent empty away. Let them take a typical case. Swansea last year applied for a grant and was informed that money could only be given to supplement local contributions, of which none was forthcoming. In consequence, the unemployed could not be set to work, and so they were chivied about from pillar to post through lack of funds, and through red-tape administration by the Local Government Board. In laying down the law, the President of the Local Government Board, he submitted, had departed from the pledges he had made. He said—

> "The grant, which would be under the control of the Local Government Board, would be voted to existing district committees, in accordance with the demands that might be made from each of the particular areas now constituted, in accordance with the necessities of the district. The poverty of the unemployed, and the distress of the district would be alone considered, and the Local Government Board, in conjunction with other Departments, would see that this money was promptly and efficiently used."

Subsequently, a circular was issued on exactly opposite lines, laying down, as the fundamental position, that money must first be raised locally before anything could be done from the central fund. He submitted that the distress committees of the country were first of all misled by the speech of the right hon. Gentleman, and they had a right to complain that conditions were subsequently imposed upon them of which, in the right hon. Gentleman's opening speech, little or no hint was given. The committees were hampered and restricted unnecessarily in dealing with this matter. The small areas were admittedly hard to work, by reason of the difficulty of finding employment within their boundaries. The Local Government Board had power to bring about a combination of several district committees, so as to widen the area within which they might operate. Were this done the carrying out of schemes of afforestation and land reclamation, and of dealing with waste land, and training and equipping men to settle upon the land would have been a comparatively easy matter. Last year they had been content to accept the promises which were held out concerning the unemployed. They could not accept promises this year in lieu of performance. They welcomed the promise of various social reforms contained in the King's Speech, but what they had to remember was that there was a clamant need there and then to deal with starving and desperate men. At that very moment, at a quarter past twelve o'clock at night, under Hungerford Bridge, there were a thousand men of all ages, from the youth beginning life to old men, standing shivering with cold and hunger, waiting for a basin of soup from the Salvation Army shelter. In face of such facts as they knew to exist, the Local Government Board, far from seeking to restrict the efforts of such bodies as the distress committees, should encourage them, and even if mistakes were made, it was only by making mistakes that the proper way would be found in the end. They could not expect a perfect method of dealing with this question. They did not ask for heroic measures; what they did ask for was that the full powers of the existing Act should be applied to grapple with and meet the needs of the people, and that where the Act was deficient, it should be strengthened, as he believed it would be with the full consent of the House, so as to enable the committees to do more than they were able to do at present.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.) said he could not agree with the President of the Local Government Board in reference to unemployment being caused through drink and lack of skill. He happened to belong to one of the skilled industries—the boot and shoe trade—and he was one of those who suffered through the rapid introduction of machinery. So far as the statement about distress committees was concerned, he had a report to the effect that in the town of Leicester, where he had spent some twenty years of his life, the average of operatives out of employment in the boot and shoe trade was 395. The report of one of the secretaries of the union was that out of one particular department of the industry they had 740 men upon the books anxious to obtain employment and unable to get it. The suggestion that they were unskilled could be met by the fact that most of them had been apprenticed to the business; and with regard to their being unable to turn their attention to other fields of work, he might state that some four years ago, through himself and others who were at that time members of the Leicester Town Council, the borough surveyor was instructed to put down a permanent track by direct employment. The permanent track was put down by direct employment, and 50 per cent. of the persons employed were boot and shoe operatives. One would naturally think, from some of the speeches made by the President of the Local Government Board, that men from the factory could not do this kind of work. That work was done by direct labour at a saving of £17,000. With regard to what had been said about the drinking habits of working men, after thirteen years official experience he had no hesitation in saying that there were more men displaced by machinery than by drink. He protested against the working man being preached at in this way. If the right hon. Gentleman who appeared so anxious to lecture working men would lecture other individuals in higher places he would do more good. He had seen several letters stating that the Local Government Board had prohibited borough councils from utilising certain loans for the direct employment of labour. He hoped that statement was not correct. He knew where in one trade there were 740 men who wanted work and could not get it, and it was the duty of the Government to see that something tangible was done in the near future to remedy this state of things.

MR. MADDISON (Burnley) said that whatever view they might take of this question it was undoubtedly one of great importance. In his opinion an attack had been made upon the President of the Local Government Board upon far too slender grounds; in fact there were no grounds at all for making the attack. The hon. Member for South West Ham had moved the Amendment in a speech to which he had listened with great pleasure, and he was delighted with the frank and manly way in which he put his case. He might say the same of the speech of the hon. Member for East Leeds. But what concrete remedy had been suggested? What real complaint was there against the President of the Local Government Board? The hon. Member for East Leeds had said two sensible things, and one of them was that the problem was insoluble. What he meant was that it was a problem so wide that it was absurd to think that there was any ready settlement, or any perfectly complete settlement of it. The next thing the hon. Member had said was that this question should be approached from a business point of view, and he emphasised that view by again and again repeating that he only wanted such work as would be remunerative, and would give some return to the community as well as to the unemployed. He did not believe there was an hon. Member in this House who would object to unemployment being dealt with on those lines. Hon. Members sitting on the Labour Benches ought not to imagine that because they took a certain line on the unemployed question they were the only friends of the unemployed. He himself had known what unemployment was, and in all his experience nothing had been so bitter. There was nothing which anybody could say that could too much emphasise the misery of unemployment. He had, however, lived long enough to know that very few problems were solved by the heart alone; the head must be used as well. When the hon. Member for East Leeds laid it down that they must treat this question from a business point of view he anxiously waited to see whether the President of the Local Government Board would respond in a wise and judicious fashion to that very reasonable request, and he had done so. But when the hon. Member for Merthyr Tydvil got up he put the unemployed question in quite a different light. The hon. Member's remedy was simply the labour colony, planting men here and there to do certain things, just as if they would solve anything by that. That kind of thing very often accentuated the difficulty. Hon. Members should ask the labourers who were employed near these colonies, who would tell them that the men kept by the rates were better off than they were. He hoped that the Government would not budge an inch in the direction of endorsing the doctrine that the State was to make itself absolutely responsible for every man who fell out of employment. He would fear the existence of machinery which was always ready to be put into operation for dealing with the unemployed. He had not sufficient belief in Government departments to think that they would be able to resist the pressure that might be brought to bear upon them by organised agitation, and which might prevent them from looking at the matter fairly and squarely. There were very few votes which he could give with a clearer conscience than the one he would give against the Amendment. It was by legislation which was best for the nation as a whole, which put industry in the freest condition, and which gave the greatest and fullest access to the land on broad national lines, that they should approach the solution of this question.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan) rose to continue the debate, when

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question, "That the Question be now put," put, and agreed to.

Question put accordingly, "That those words be there added."

The House divided:—Ayes, 47; Noes, 207. (Division List No. 7.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Barnes, G. N.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Clynes, J. R.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Crooks, William
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness

Duncan, Robt. (Lanark, Govan
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Gill, A. H.
Glover, Thomas
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hills, J. W.
Hudson, Walter
Hunt, Rowland
Jenkins, J.
Jowett, F. W.
Kelley, George D.
Lane-Fox, G. R.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macpherson, J. T.
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Grady, J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Richards, Thomas (W Monm'th
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Rowlands, J.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thorne, William
Walsh, Stephen
Wardle, George J.
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Arthur Henderson and Mr. George Roberts.

NOES.

Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon. Herbert H.
Astbury, John Meir
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd.
Cory, Clifford John
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herb. J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, William J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickinson, W. H. (St. Pancras, N.
Dobson, Thomas W.
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Fletcher, J. S.
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert J.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Harmsworth, R L (Caithn'ss-sh.
Harvey, A. G. C. (Rochdale)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, NE
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hedges, A. Paget
Helme, Norval Watson
Hemmerde, Edward George
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Herbert, T. Arnold (Wycombe)
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R.
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs)
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield Harry (Northants)
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montague, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murray, James
Nicholls, George
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Captain Cecil William
Nussey, Thomas Willans
Nuttall, Harry
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert J. (Norfolk, E.)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Renton, Major Leslie
Roberts, John H. (Denbighs)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel W.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hythe)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Charles Edw. (Stafford)
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)

Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hn. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, W. D. (Southampton)
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thos. Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, Hon. C.H.W. (Hull, W.
Wilson, Henry J. (York, W.R.)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Winfrey, R.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

Resolved, "That an humble Address be presented to His Majesty, as followeth :—

"*Most Gracious Sovereign*:

"We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the Commons of the United Kingdon of Great Britain and Ireland, in Parliament assembled, beg leave to offer our humble thanks to Your Majesty for the Gracious Speech which Your Majesty has addressed to both Houses of Parliament."

To be presented by Privy Councillors and Members of His Majesty's Household.

SUPPLY.

Resolved, That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

Ordered, That the several Estimates presented to this House during the present session be referred to the Committee of Supply.

WAYS AND MEANS.

Resolved, That this House will, to-morrow, resolve itself into a Committee to consider of the Ways and Means for raising the Supply to be granted to His Majesty.—(*Mr. Runciman.*)

KITCHEN AND REFRESHMENT COMMITTEE.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed to control the arrangements for the Kitchen and Refreshment Rooms in the Department of the Serjeant at Arms attending this House.

Ordered, That the Committee do consist of Seventeen Members.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of,—Mr. Barnard, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Fenwick, Viscount Helmsley, Sir Robert Hobart, Mr. John Deans Hope, Sir Alfred Jacoby, Mr. Lea, Colonel Lockwood, Mr. Lonsdale, Mr. McKillop, Mr. Power, Mr. William Redmond, Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. Thorne, and Mr. Walrond.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That Three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

And, it being after half-past Eleven of the clock on Wednesday evening, Mr. Speaker adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at a quarter before One o'clock.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Thursday, 21*st* *February*, 1907.

The Earl of ONSLOW sat Speaker.

LUCAS PEERAGE.

Petition of Auberon Thomas Herbert, the son and heir of the Lady Florence Amabel Herbert, deceased, to His Majesty, praying His Majesty to be graciously pleased to direct a Writ of Summons to be issued to him for attendance in Parliament as Baron Lucas of Cradwell, or if it be decided that he is not entitled to such dignity under the Patent of King Charles II., to terminate in his favour the abeyance, if such be found to exist, of the Barony of Lucas of Cradwell, together with the rights, privileges, pre-eminences, immunities and advantages, and the place and precedence belonging thereto, to hold the same to him and the heirs of his body lawfully begotten and to be begotten for ever; together with His Majesty's reference thereof to this House, and the report of the Attorney-General thereon thereunto annexed; presented (by command), read, and referred to the Committee for Privileges to consider and report.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

TRANSVAAL.

Report of Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, for 1905–1906.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1907.

Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with enclosures, respecting the Agenda of the Colonial Conference, 1907.

TREATY SERIES.

No. 6. (1907). Accession of Brazil to the Geneva Convention of 22nd August, 1864 for the amelioration of the condition of the wounded in armies in the field. (26th January, 1907).

No. 7. (1907). Supplementary Convention between the United Kingdom and the United States of America for the mutual surrender of fugitive criminals; signed at London, 12th April, 1905. (Ratifications exchanged at Washington, 21st December 1906).

INDIA (TRADE).

Tables relating to the Trade of British India with British Possessions and Foreign Countries, 1901–1902 to 1905–1906.

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Return for the month of December 1906.

ARMY.

Interim Report of War Office Committee on Provision of Officers—For services with the Regular Army in war; and for the Auxiliary Forces.

TRADE REPORTS—ANNUAL SERIES.

No. 3745 Russia (Poland and Lithuania) for 1906.

NORTH SEA FISHERIES.

Second Report (Northern Area) on Fishery and Hydrographical Investigations in the North Sea and adjacent waters, 1904–1905. Part I. Hydrography.

Presented (by command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870 TO 1906.

Order in Council, dated 11th February, 1907, for giving effect to a Supplementary Convention which was concluded on the 12th April, 1905, between His Majesty and the President of the United States of America, for the mutual extradition of fugitive criminals.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

Order in Council, dated 11th February, 1907, amending Orders in Council of 27th November 1875, relating to stores licensed for gunpowder, and for mixed explosives respectively.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Three Orders in Council, dated 11th February 1907, entitled: The Northern Nigeria Order in Council, 1907; The Corea Order in Council, 1907; The China and Corea (Amendment) Order in Council, 1907.

SHOP HOURS ACT, 1904 (URBAN DISTRICT OF CHADDERTON).

Order made by the council of the urban district of Chadderton, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing hours of closing for certion classes of shops within the district.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1906.

Regulations made by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

HOUSE OF LORDS (REFORM) BILL.

A Bill to authorise the discontinuance in particular cases of Writs for Summons to the House of Lords, to provide for the appointment of Peers of Parliament for life, and to amend the law relating to the representation in Parliament of the Peerages of Scotland and Ireland. Was presented by the Lord Newton; read 1a; to be printed; and to be read 2a on Tuesday the 5th of March. (No. 4.)

FOREIGN TRAWLERS IN THE MORAY FIRTH.

***LORD BALFOUR OF BURLEIGH** rose to ask the Representative of the Scottish Office whether it was the case that certain persons recently convicted in the Sheriff Court at Elgin for illegal trawling in the Moray Firth, and imprisoned in default of payment of fines, had been released without the payment of the fines; and, if so, whether he could, without detriment to the public interest, give any explanation of the reasons which had led to their release; and to ask His Majesty's Government whether they would state what policy they intended to pursue in future regarding trawling in the Moray Firth.

The noble Lord said: My Lords, when I put down this notice last week it was entirely from a desire to gain the information which is asked for in the first two Questions on the Paper. I had then no intention of making any remarks at all on the subject. Owing, as your Lordships are aware, to a request on the part of His Majesty's Government, I postponed the notice for a week, and I am bound to say that although a certain amount of more general interest has been aroused in the matter by this time than would have been the case last week, the first two Questions which appear on the Paper have somewhat lost their interest, because we now know, through what are described as the usual channels of information, that the individuals who form the subject of the Questions have been released from prison, and, as I understand it, without the payment of the fines in default of the payment of which they were imprisoned. I think we can also form a fairly accurate guess that their release was owing to friendly representations made by the official representatives of another Power. Since I put down the notice a copy of the local paper has been sent to me which shows that at the time of the conviction the representative of that Power attended the Court and protested against conviction, whether it was to result in the payment of a fine or in imprisonment.

In these circumstances, therefore, the real interest in the matter centres round the third Question standing in my name on the Paper, in which I ask His Majesty's Government whether they will state what policy they intend to pursue in future regarding trawling in the Moray Firth. I think it would probably be not inconvenient to your Lordships if I made a very short statement regarding the history of this matter and the reasons which have induced me to ask for this information. This is no new question. It is one which has been agitated and discussed in various phases at any time during the last fifteen or sixteen years, and as regards the main features of it there is no difference of opinion, as I understand, and certainly no difference of policy, and I believe no possible controversy between the two sides of the House or the representatives of either political party. Whether what has been done is right or wrong we are, up to quite recent times, both in it, if I may use the expression.

The Act of Parliament under which the action was taken was passed by

Lord Salisbury's Government in 1889. The first part of the area which was closed against trawlers inside the Moray Firth, namely, the area of the Dornoch and Cromarty firths—was closed by by-law during the tenure of office of my noble friend the late Lord Lothian, who was Secretary for Scotland up to 1892, and the larger part of the area, about which the most controversy can arise, that large portion of the Moray Firth which is outside the territorial limits, was closed under by-law during the tenure of office of Sir George Trevellyan in the autumn of 1892. Since I succeeded to the office of Secretary for Scotland in 1895 no addtion to the area closed has been made up to the present time. I found, so far as the closing of areas was concerned, the *status quo* which exists at the present time, and my share in the transaction was in endeavouring to administer the conditions which I found existing when I went into office, with this sole exception—I mention it so that the history may be complete—that during my tenure of office the by-law was upset on a technical point by the Court of Session, and I was responsible, under the Government of the day, for renewing it in a form which got rid of that pure technicality. I only mention this circumstance to show that my object is not to raise anything like controversy as to the merits of the closing of this area, because I believe it to be entirely justifiable on many grounds. I am not going into the reasons, because I do not know that they are challenged.

The controversy proceeds to some extent from a difference of opinion between those who are engaged in line-fishing and those who are engaged in the practice of trawling. Two of a trade, as we know, never agree, and the interests of these two classes of fishermen are to a great extent divergent; but, whatever may be said upon one side or the other of that part of the question, the real case for the closing of this area is that it can be established upon scientific evidence that there are areas inside the Moray Firth which are the breeding grounds of certain classes of fish, and for the purpose of protecting the breeding grounds of edible fish it is important that trawling during certain periods of the year should not be resorted to. I personally would be inclined to go further. I am afraid there is strong ground for the assertion that the whole supply of a certain class of the most important edible fish is being greatly diminished, I will not say by trawling alone, but by superior methods of capture which have been resorted to in the last few years. Lord Eversley, who is not here to-day, took up the case on the other side and wrote an article some years ago to prove that there was no such *prima facie* case as was alleged regarding the depletion of certain classes of fish. I do not want to raise that controversy upon this occasion. It is not necessary to do so, as it does not enter into the particular question which we have to look at to-night.

As I have said, there has been a prolonged agitation upon this matter. At first the opposition to the policy of the Scottish Office proceeded from those interested in trawling at Aberdeen, who, for a long time, have maintained a kind of unequal contest with the authorities. By several cases, some of them taken on appeal to the Supreme Court, it was established that in law the Fishery Board of Scotland was right, and that British subjects could not fish within the prohibited areas, and they were prevented from landing the fish at Aberdeen. The matter then assumed a different phase. Some of our English friends took up the industry, and by boats largely owned at Grimsby and elsewhere trawled in these forbidden waters. Again cases were taken to the Courts, and the validity of the by-laws and the prohibition against this class of fishing was firmly established. There was, however, no power to prevent them landing their fish at Grimsby. That has been the case up to the present time. But owing to the additions which were made to the Fishery Board's cruisers policing these waters, it became a very hazardous occupation, and the fines imposed were such as to render it not very well worth while. After that another policy was pursued. Some of the boats engaged in trawling, whether owned at Grimsby or elsewhere, I do not know, were by one means or another transferred to the flag of other countries. Some, I believe, were registered in Denmark, and others in Norway, and, for all I know, elsewhere. Again a long contest in the law courts began, and was carried on from stage to stage.

Now I come to the part subsequent to my ceasing to be Secretary for Scotland. In the year 1905 a case was taken in which a trawling vessel, owned under the Norwegian flag, was accused of fishing just outside what we ordinarily would call the territorial limits but inside what is admitted by international law to be waters over which the country close to which they are has a right to exercise control. It is a rather difficult and complicated point, but I think I can make it clear to your Lordships. Across the mouths of Dornoch and Cromarty Firths is not a distance of ten miles. Under these circumstances if the territorial country closes the waters it is allowed to extend jurisdiction to three miles beyond a line drawn from headland to headland. The first case, to which I am now alluding, in 1905 was taken against a Norwegian vessel which was trawling outside the mouth of the Bay but within three miles from the vertical line across from headland to headland. The decision was appealed against, but the Court of Session upheld the conviction. In that case the argument was that the Norwegians were not parties to the North Sea Convention and that therefore they could not be prosecuted; but in that case the master was prosecuted and fined, and I believe the fine was paid.

The next step is that which brings us down almost to current history. A case was taken against a vessel, ostensibly owned under the Norwegian flag, for trawling outside the territorial waters, but inside the closed area of the Moray Firth, and the commander of the vessel was fined in the Sheriff Court. He appealed to the High Court of Justiciary, and having regard to its importance the case was heard by the whole strength of the Court, thirteen Judges sitting together. They gave their decision in July last, and it is round that decision that some of the points of difficulty arise. The point which really had to be decided by the Court on that occasion was this. The words of the Herring Fishery (Scotland) Act, 1889, Section 6 Sub-section 3, present the point of difficulty. Therein this provision appears—

> "Any person who uses any method of fishing in contravention of any enactment or of any by-law of the Fishery Board shall be liable——"

and so on. The controversy ranged round the meaning of the words "any person." The contention of the Foreign Office, as I understood it during all the time I was Secretary for Scotland, and I believe I shall not be contradicted when I say they still hold that view, is that Parliament, instead of saying "any person," ought to have said "any British subject" or "any British person." I submit that we must take the words as they stand, and if Parliament said "any person" we must, I think, believe that Parliament knew what it was doing, and that it intended to place the prohibition, not only upon British subjects, but also upon those who are not British subjects. That is the view which was taken unanimously by the thirteen Judges.

I will not weary your Lordships by many quotations. I hold in my hand a reprint of the judgments in the case in question. Lord Kyllachy, in giving his judgment, said that the Act —

> "declares simply that within a precisely defined area a certain method of fishing, known as beam or otter trawling, shall not be practised."

He proceeded—

> "In the first place the scheme and object of the enactment have to be considered. . . . Accordingly it would be, I think, easier to suppose that the Legislature had reached even an erroneous conclusion as to the extent of its jurisdiction, and had legislated accordingly, than that it had resolved deliberately to impose a futile restriction upon its own countrymen and at the same time to create a hurtful monopoly in favour of foreigners."

And again, at the conclusion of his judgment, Lord Kyllachy said—

> "I am prepared to consider myself bound to hold—what is sufficient to support this conviction, viz.—that upon its just construction the Act of 1889 asserts the existence, for the protective purposes to which it relates, of the jurisdiction in question, and that that is enough for us sitting here as one of His Majesty's Courts."

The individual who was the subject of that judgment was, of course, convicted; the conviction was upheld, and he either paid the fine or was imprisoned, I am not sure which. That was in July last.

During the autumn other cases were taken, and a considerable number of them were tried last month in the Sheriff Court of Elgin. Those summoned were fined, the fines totalling £1,300. They did not pay and were committed to prison. We now know that the Norwegian Vice-Consul protested, and that these individuals were subsequently released. I wish to say distinctly that I make no complaint whatever of the action of Norway in this matter. I believe the Norwegians are thoroughly friendly to us. I believe they did only what we should have done under similar circumstances. But what I want to point out is this, that although these vessels are colourably Norwegian, they are registered fictitiously on the Norwegian register. I believe the ownership is British, the money which is expended in working them is British, and I think I am within absolutely what is right in saying that except for one individual on each ship there is not one person on board who is not a British subject. I venture to say that, whatever Norwegian feeling may be about the prosecution, fining, or imprisonment of Norwegian subjects, there is a strong ground for diplomatic representation that the Norwegian law should not be allowed to be used for what is really a fraud upon British jurisdiction. I hope, therefore, that diplomatic action may be taken which will lead to a better state of matters than obtains at the present moment.

What I do not understand is this—If the Scottish Office and the Government really want to stop this trawling in the closed area, why do they proceed against the one foreigner on these vessels? Why do they not proceed against the British subjects on board? That is a point which seems to me to require explanation. I have sufficient confidence in the discretion of my old Office, in the wisdom of those who are advising it, to assume that there must be some reason for prosecuting the one foreigner on these boats instead of the number of British subjects who are there. I see in his place the noble Lord, I will not say who represents Grimsby in this matter, but who always represents very ably Grimsby's interests (Lord Heneage), shaking his head. He will have an opportunity of telling us what he knows, and I hope he will tell us all he knows, for I am sure he is in possession of a great deal of information that would be extremely useful to me and probably to His Majesty's Government. There is a great deal of sympathy in Grimsby with these foreigners. I noticed in the newspapers the other day resolutions of profound sympathy with the Norwegians who had been prosecuted and put in prison. I have yet to know why there should be this philanthropic interest in Norwegian subjects at Grimsby, of all places in the world, if there was not something behind it. It may not be entirely Grimsby. Aberdeen may be in it too; but what I suggest to your Lordships is this, that when the Government, backed by Parliament and acting under the authority of Parliament, resolve, for certain purposes, to close a certain area, we are entitled to hope that evasions of this kind, whether from Grimsby, Aberdeen, or elsewhere, in the mistakenly selfish interests of one class of fishermen, will not be allowed to prevail.

I hope, as I have said, that we shall hear that friendly representations will be made to Norway to take care that something is done to prevent the registration of ships for this purpose. I suggest that one method of settling the matter without the necessity for diplomatic action at all would be to prevent the landing in England as well as in Scotland of fish caught within prohibited areas. My case is, briefly, this. If, as I think, it is right to maintain this prohibition; if, as I think, there is a strong practical case for it, then I say it ought to be made effective. If you do not mean to make it effective, repeal it. The present state of matters seems to me to be perfectly indefensible, both in logic and for any practical purpose. I sincerely hope we shall hear from His Majesty's Government that they mean to make these restrictions effective, and will not allow any supposed interest of one class against another to interfere with what I venture to suggest is their plain duty.

*THE UNDER - SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Lord FITZMAURICE): My Lords, I desire, in the first place, to thank the noble Lord who has brought forward this matter, for the calm and temperate manner in which he has presented a question that excites, for natural reasons, a very great amount of feeling in different parts of the country.

In replying to the noble Lord, I feel that I am labouring under a disadvantage, because of the absence, through illness, of the Lord Chancellor, and Lord Carrington, President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries, who would have taken part in the discussion. My noble friend, Lord Eversley, who took a great interest in the subject, and drew up the Report of the old Fisheries Commission of 1863, is also absent, unfortunately, for the same reason of ill-health. And may I be allowed to say that I feel that in a discussion of this kind, which involves the most difficult of all legal matters, the conflict of municipal and international law, we on this side suffer by the loss of the noble and learned Lord, whose decease we read of with such deep feelings of regret in the papers this morning.

The noble Lord opposite, who has an almost unrivalled acquaintance with the subject, owing to his long connection with Scottish administration, has justly observed that both sides of the House are, to a certain extent, equally responsible for this legislation. The fact is that these fishery statutes, and the by-laws under them, are part of a long and not, as yet, terminated controversy. As representing the Foreign Office I do not think it is desirable on my part that I should attempt to plunge into the details of that controversy. There are others, far more competent than I can be, to advise on the practical aspects. During the last few days I have heard at the Foreign Office such a number of completely contradictory statements in regard to the position of the fishing interests affected by this legislation, for instance in the case of a great fishing centre like Aberdeen, I have heard such violent statements that the town is entirely for and also entirely against trawling, that I feel that if I attempted to advise your Lordships I should be undertaking a task of the greatest rashness. I will therefore confine myself to what may be called the defence of the action of the Foreign Office.

Early in 1906 proceedings were commenced against a Dane, master of the steam trawler "Niobe," a vessel flying the Norwegian flag, for having trawled within the area specified in the by-law, though it was admitted that the offence took place outside the three-mile limit. The accused was convicted; he appealed, but the conviction was upheld by the High Court of Justiciary. Since this case proceedings have been taken against various other persons, including certain Norwegian and Swedish subjects, for offences against the by-law. Convictions ensued, and the offenders were condemned to pay fines. Certain of the offenders refused to pay, or were unable to pay, the fines imposed, and were in consequence imprisoned. Representations were received from the Swedish and Norwegian Ministers in London with regard to these cases, and the Crown acting on the advice and recommendation of the Secretary for Scotland, remitted the remaining portion of the sentence of imprisonment and ordered the release of the men. The further question of the repayment of the fines which had been paid is under the consideration of the Government. I believe that any feeling on the subject which has been aroused in Scotland is due to the fact that it is thought that the trawlers were really owned by British subjects at Grimsby, and that the adoption of the Norwegian flag was a device to evade the Scottish Fishery Regulations. I may, however, point out that the transfer of these vessels to the Norwegian flag was, as far as could be ascertained, performed in a perfectly regular manner, and that the facts, from the point of view of the Norwegian Government, were that Norwegian subjects fishing in extra-territorial waters, as they had a right to do, were fined and imprisoned by the authorities of a friendly Power. I have been asked to state whether proceedings were actually taken against a vessel as distinguished from an individual. In one case a trawler was arrested, the "Sando," and brought into port by the instructions of Captain Wright, of the "Freya," but almost as soon as the trawler arrived Captain Wright received a telegram in reply from the Fishery Board instructing him to allow the master and the boat to go at once, instructions which were carried out. It will be seen, therefore, that in dealing with this matter we are limited entirely to the case of proceedings against persons.

I pass to the position of the Foreign Office. The jurisdiction which is exercised by a State over its merchant or trading vessels upon the high seas is conceded to it in virtue of its ownership of them as property in a place where no local jurisdiction exists. Therefore, the first thing that, in these cases, the Foreign Office has to ask is, Was there or was there not, territorial jurisdiction in the place where the alleged events occurred? In regard to that I can certainly say that according to the views hitherto accepted by all the Departments of the Government chiefly concerned—the Foreign Office, the Admiralty, the Colonial Office, the Board of Trade, and the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries—and apart from the provisions of special treaties, such as, for instance, the North Sea Convention, within the limits to which that instrument applies, territorial waters are:—First, the waters which extend from the coastline of any part of the territory of a State to three miles from the low-water mark of such coastline; secondly, the waters of bays the entrance to which is not more than six miles in width, and of which the entire land boundary forms part of the territory of a State. By custom however and by Treaty and in special convention the six-mile limit has frequently been extended to more than six miles.

The Foreign Office of late years, as your Lordships are aware, has been involved in many important controversies where these questions have been raised — there was the famous decision of the High Court in the case of the "Franconia," the controversy with Denmark with regard to the fishing rights in the waters of Iceland, and last, but not least famous, the Behring Sea Arbitration. In all these cases the contention of the Foreign Office has been what I have described.

At the time of the Behring Sea Arbitration this fishery controversy had already begun, and therefore it was not unnatural that those who were arguing the case of the United States should take advantage of what they considered might be a damaging admission or confession on our part in regard to the Herring Fisheries (Scotland) Act, 1889. Reference was expressly made to the fact that this Act had been made applicable within a line drawn from Duncansby Head to Rattray Point, and that "any person" who violated it was liable to a penalty. From this it was sought to be argued that the application of the Act beyond the three-mile limit was not therefore limited to British subjects. In the British argument it was pointed out in reply that "any person" was an expression commonly used in British statutes dealing with crimes and misdemeanours, and was never applied except to persons owing obedience to the British Parliament. The distinguished lawyers representing Great Britain stated that—

> "Both in the case of Colonial laws and in the case of English laws the words 'any person' mean 'any person subject to the jurisdiction of the Legislature passing such laws.'"

That is "subject" in accordance with the principles of international and constitutional law.

I hope your Lordships will understand that I am not presuming for a moment to question the decision arrived at by the High Court of Justiciary considered as a matter of dry law. Indeed, I do not see how the Court could have arrived at any other decision, since it was bound to administer the law as laid down in an Act of Parliament without reference to any external considerations whatever. If I may venture to say so, the Foreign Office would, I think, have acted very unwisely if it had appeared in this controversy to question the decision of a strong Court like this, presided over by so able and accomplished a Judge as the Lord Justice-General.

The principle on which all the judgments proceeded was that, as Parliament had legislated in a definite manner for all persons within a defined area, Parliament must be presumed to have satisfied itself of its power and right to do so before passing the enactment. The passages in the judgments that deal with the territoriality of the Firth were apparently introduced to rebut the appellants' contentions that Parliament could not have meant the by-law to apply to foreigners, because the waters were not territorial. The Court, in effect, said, "It is not certain that the entire Firth is not territorial, and as the appellants' construction would reduce the enactment to impotence, we shall not follow it." There is absolutely nothing to justify the idea that there has been a collision of opinion between the Foreign Office and the highest Court of law in Scotland. The Judges while bound for the reasons stated to arrive at the decision they did, clearly saw that there was an international aspect to this question which a Court of law could not deal with under municipal law, but which must be left to the Foreign Office to deal with through the ordinary methods of diplomacy.

Then I have been asked by the noble Lord to state what is the present intention of His Majesty's Government. On behalf of the Scottish Office I am allowed to say that this matter is continuing to receive the attention of the Secretary for Scotland, and that, pending the settlement of the existing intricate diplomatic position, so far as the subjects of Foreign Powers are concerned, he deems it necessary to revise the instructions under which the cruisers are now acting. The principal instruction, therefore, will, in future, run as follows—

> "When the officer commanding a cruiser detects a trawler under a foreign flag trawling within the waters of the Moray Firth, he is to obtain full information as to the operations of the trawler; such information to include all the facts that would be necessary for successful prosecution in the case of a British trawler detected under like circumstances, with this addition, that every person on the vessel, of whatever rank, who uses or assists in the use and the method of fishing known as beam or otter trawling should be included in the report, with a view to his individual prosecution."

It is Mr. Sinclair's intention, as advised, to take proceedings against all British subjects who can be proved to have acted in contravention of the by-law in any capacity while serving in vessels flying the Norwegian flag. Complaints will, of course, only be served on such persons when in British jurisdiction. That is the reply to the first question of the noble Lord.

The noble Lord further asked if there was any intention to extend the prohibition in force in Scotland against selling fish caught in this manner to England also. I have reason to believe that it is in contemplation that some such measure should be extended, although the manner in which it will be done must be matter for further consideration. It is the desire of the Secretary for Scotland that this feeling which has been excited should be set at rest. Norway, we must bear in mind, is the latest addition to the family of nations of Europe. She is bound to this country also by special ties of recent origin. Although she has behind her the great traditions of her naval history, she is none the less new in her established position. That being so, noble Lords will sympathise with the feeling of the Secretary of State that it would hardly have been very creditable to us, if in a matter of this kind, where undoubtedly our diplomatic position in regard to the arrest of these men was to say the least very doubtful, we had appeared to single out Norway at this moment as the Power at whose expense we were to raise the controversy. This feeling will be better appreciated when I state that the whole matter might be regulated by a Convention with Norway in regard to these extra-territorial waters.

Throughout this controversy Norway has never, so far as I am aware, indicated that she would meet any reasonable proposal of this kind with an absolute *non possumus.* That was an additional reason why the Foreign Office and the Secretary of State felt that it was desirable to move delicately in this matter. In this question of an extension of the territorial waters by a Convention with Norway, the Foreign Office would on general grounds have to move very carefully. The question raises many considerations affecting other interests and other departments than that which I represent; and I must not be understood as giving any pledge on behalf of the Government, the matter being one involving numerous interests other than the fishing interests immediately concerned, as well as the possible claims of other Powers besides Norway. Any Convention might—I do not say that it would — give rise to claims of reciprocity on the part of other countries, which might exclude British trawlers from other and similar areas in the neighbourhood of foreign coasts which are at present open to the exercise of the industry of British fishermen.

From the point of view of the Scottish Office, the interests of the inshore Scottish fisheries are no doubt, and quite rightly, the first consideration. But from the point of view of the Imperial and foreign interests of this country, there are other and larger considerations which would have to be carefully regarded—not only the interests of the whole body of our fishermen in foreign waters and on the high seas, but also the numerous other interests that are connected with, and involved in, matters appertaining to the doctrines which bear on the limits of territorial waters. They are almost infinite in their variety and in their ramifications. Compared with the immediate fishing interests concerned, which not unnaturally loom so largely in the eyes of those who ply their industry on the high seas in circumstances of great difficulty, these national and Imperial interests are as a round shot to a grain of sand.

LORD HENEAGE: My Lords, after the challenge which has been thrown out by the noble Lord who raised this question this evening, I think your Lordships will not be surprised if I ask your indulgence while I make a few observations on the subject. Before I proceed to the important question of the interests of the great fishing industry of this country, which I have the honour to represent as president of the National Sea Fisheries Association, I should like to make one or two remarks with regard to certain statements made by Lord Balfour, which, I think, are not altogether accurate.

In the first place, my noble friend led the House to believe that a large number of these vessels were practically British vessels sailing under the Norwegian flag. I must remind my noble friend that when he was Secretary for Scotland he made this very statement to me and complained about it, and I then told him that so long as I was President of the Association I would never be a party to defending any British vessels sailing under a foreign flag, but that at the same time we should do all we could to get rid of the obnoxious and unfair restrictions imposed by Scottish law in the Moray Firth. At that time there was a fleet of twenty-two vessels sailing under the Norwegian flag. They were, as my noble friend has said, practically British vessels. Of those vessels fourteen have been re-registered under the British flag, six have been made over unconditionally to the Norwegians, and what has become of the other two I cannot tell, but they are not fishing anywhere that I know of. I hope that statement will remove the "bogey" of British vessels under the Norwegian flag. I am not aware at the present moment of a single vessel owned by Britishers, and entirely maintained by British money, which is sailing under the Norwegian flag.

My noble friend also made the statement that in these cases the foreigner on the vessel was always taken up and never an Englishman. I was rather surprised that while my noble friend referred so continually to the Norwegian vessels dealt with at Elgin he never said one word about the two men who were taken off two vessels and convicted at Wick. They all come under the same category and the same law. I have a description of those two vessels. The first was owned entirely by Norwegians and chartered by a Danish company. It had a crew of five Danes and five Norwegians, and in that case they naturally took up a Dane. They did not, however, take up the skipper but the first fisherman; why they took him I have never been able to find out. The second vessel was entirely owned by Norwegians, but there was one Englishman on board and he was taken up and convicted. As far as I know, he was the only Englishman on that vessel. He was not the skipper but the first fisherman. With regard to the first of these two vessels the fine has been remitted and the man set free on the application of the Norwegian Government, but in the other case the fine had been paid, and whether it has been restored or not I am unable to say.

I have been connected for nearly a quarter of a century with this industry, and during the whole of that time I think every case of complaint has gone through me to the Foreign Office, and I have been in communication with Foreign Ministers in regard to it; but I have never seen a plea set up by a foreign country that they wanted to extend the three-mile limit. The chief point has been whether the vessel, when taken up by the cruiser, was in the three-mile limit or not. That was the first question, and the second was whether the trawl was up or down; but since the "Lady Godiva" case the question of the three-mile limit has never been raised.

The noble Lord, in bringing forward this question, told us a great deal about Scottish by-laws and the interests of the long-shore fishermen of the Moray Firth, but he did not say one word as to how the present system of international law and comity between the nations of Europe has been brought about and upheld. In 1882 the North Sea Convention was signed by all the maritime Powers of Europe except Norway, and in the following year the Sea Fisheries Act was passed by the British Parliament confirming the North Sea Convention and in its schedule the Convention itself. Article II. of that Convention defines the territorial waters as within three miles from low water mark along the whole extent of the respective countries as well as of the islands and banks. In Article III. the limits of the North Sea are definitely set forth, and in Article XXXI. it is stated that the Convention is to remain in force for five years and then from year to year, unless one of the signatory Powers shall give notice of a desire to withdraw, and it shall then be continued between the remaining Powers.

In 1888 an International Conference was held in London, at which most of the maritime Powers round the North Sea were represented. The year before that the Royal Commission had reported on the subject of trawling, and that Report was taken into consideration. In the Report the Commission recommended no legislation except within the territorial limits of three miles, and they advised that powers should be given to fishery authorities to make by-laws for the regulation and supervision of steam-trawling or any other mode of fishing within the three-mile territorial waters. The late Lord Londesborough moved a Resolution in accordance with the recommendation of the Report. It was supported by representatives of Grimsby and Hull, and by three representatives of Scotland—Colonel Malcolm, the Hon. R. Bruce, and Mr. H. Anstruther. They were all specific on the point that the regulations to be made against trawling should be within the three-mile limits of the territorial water only.

In 1889 the Secretary for Scotland brought in a Bill to prevent trawling by closing the whole of the territorial waters, and on the Second Reading of the Bill in this House he urged that it should be passed without Amendment, stating that it simply and entirely dealt with the waters within the three-mile limit. The Bill was passed. Then, as has been stated by my noble friend, the by-law referred to was made; it was in September, 1892. I have never been able to understand how that by-law could be made, because it enclosed waters outside the three-mile limit. In 1895 the Scottish Office brought in the Scottish Fisheries Regulation Bill. When that measure was under discussion Lord Salisbury repudiated the idea that the Act of 1889 had anything to do with waters outside the three-mile limit, and he maintained the principle of the present International law as set out in the North Sea Convention. Lord Salisbury held that view very strongly, and said there was nothing in the Scottish Fisheries Regulation Bill to prevent there being a stretch of sea in which the foreigner might trawl and the Englishman might not trawl, thereby foreseeing the exact state of things which has since happened.

My noble friend, Lord Balfour, has said that we at Grimsby, and the fishing trade generally, approve of the action of the Government. We do. But we approve of it not for any selfish reason so far as the Moray Firth is concerned. That is an insignificant part of the question. The fishermen of Hull, Grimsby, and Aberdeen go much further afield. What we feel is that if the first maritime nation in the world is to begin playing pranks with international legislation there may be retaliation and we should have difficulties when fishing outside the three-mile limits in the neighbourhood of another territory. In 1902, when Lord Lansdowne was Foreign Secretary, the question arose with regard to water outside the three-mile limit around Iceland. The Icelandic local Parliament or council brought forward a law extending the three-mile limit to seven miles round their coast. As soon as this came to the knowledge of the National Sea Fisheries Association we made a representation to the noble Marquess. We pointed out what a serious effect this would have on the fishing interests of

Lord Heneage.

this country and that it was entirely opposed to the North Sea Convention and to International law. On the representation of the Foreign Office the Danish Government took action and that law was prevented from coming into operation.

Then I come to another point in the speech of my noble friend—the question of closing British ports to foreign vessels. During the whole twenty years I have been connected with the sea-fishing industry the one great thing we have had in view has been to induce foreign countries to show that hospitality to our vessels in distress and to give us those facilities for the sale of our fish in their ports which are extended to their ships in our ports; and if any attempt is made to close the ports of either Grimsby or Hull to foreign vessels and to deny to them the hospitality which we receive in foreign ports, every opposition that the fishing industry can give will be given to it. The whole of the fishing industry of Great Britain view with the greatest consternation what they consider to be a gross breach of international law by the Scottish authorities, and they rejoice that His Majesty's Government have faithfully carried out the obligations of Great Britain as a signatory to the North Sea Convention and upheld the honour and integrity of this country.

LORD ASHBOURNE: My Lords, this question is one requiring close attention. It cannot be put aside lightly and without much thought, because it is obvious, from the statements which have been made to-day, that it is complicated and involved and demands careful examination in order to arrive at a solution which would be accepted as wise and reasonable. The question presented to the consideration of the Government is, what is to be their attitude, having regard to the Statute of 1889, the by-laws made under it, and the decisions given with high authority by the High Court of Justiciary in Scotland as lately as July last? I am not sufficiently acquainted with the laws under which the Scottish Court was proceeding to know whether that decision was final, or whether the matter can be brought to your Lordships' House on appeal.

***LORD FITZMAURICE**: There can be no appeal in the true legal sense, but it is possible that it could come under the jurisdiction of the Privy Council.

LORD ASHBOURNE: It is obviously a decision entitled to the most careful consideration on account of the authority of the distinguished Judges who composed the Court. I join with the noble Lord the Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs in regretting the absence of the Lord Chancellor, and in deploring the death of Lord Davey, a very eminent and distinguished lawyer, in whom the whole House as well as his legal colleagues recognised a great jurist. Those associated with him in the judicial work of the House will long deplore his loss, as I am sure will the rest of the House and the whole country.

I gather that on the subject before the House the views of His Majesty's Government are in conflict with the conclusion arrived at by the Scottish Judges, and that the noble Lord and the Scottish Office are closely considering whether they will make new regulations which will endeavour to do justice with regard to this rather difficult matter, as between Norwegians and British subjects. I understand that communications will be made to the Norwegian Government in reference to the matter having regard to the way in which consideration has been shown to Norwegian subjects. No one in the House would suggest that anything but such consideration should be shown. But of course that does not end the matter, and we come back to the question how to make this consideration and the exercise of the prerogative consistent with the Act of 1889, with the by-laws made under it, and the decisions of the Courts. As I understand, the subject is engaging the close attention of the Scottish Office with the hope to mitigate or remove difficulties in the future, and in the circumstances, before expressing further views, it would, I think, be wise to await further information.

***LORD REAY**: My Lords, I quite agree with the noble and learned Lord who has just sat down that we shall do well to await the further consideration of this very complex and intricate question. It seems to me impossible to admit that foreigners have rights of fishing recognised by international law which cannot be exercised by our own subjects on account of the law to which they are subject as interpreted by the Scottish Judges. But, as regards the position taken up by the Foreign Office and so clearly explained to-night in the speech of my noble friend the Under-Secretary, I agree that it is of the utmost importance that the liberty to fish outside the three-mile limit should not be interfered with, unless the consent has been obtained of the Powers concerned. As the noble Lord stated, this is an Imperial interest and one which we should carefully guard and maintain. It is obvious that any extension of jurisdiction outside those limits might be attended with very serious results to ourselves as a maritime nation and to our fishermen. I endorse what my noble friend has said in regard to our vindication of liberty on the high seas. As regards the importance of protecting the breeding ground, to which allusion was made, that obviously is a question which should be settled, not only by municipal legislation, but by international arrangement. With regard to negotiations with Norway, it should not be forgotten that Norway and Sweden have by their legislation extended the territorial waters' limit beyond three miles to four miles. When my noble friend approaches the Norwegian Government on the subject I think that argument may be used effectively in favour of a further arrangement. But, in any case, I think the greatest caution in this matter must be observed. These are not merely local interests in which Aberdeen and Grimsby are concerned, but international interests which have a wider and far-reaching importance for a great industry; and I should deprecate any attempt to encroach on the liberty of the high seas beyond the three-mile limit except by an international convention such as the North Sea Convention. I am quite sure that no difficulty will be experienced in making this question plain to those who are interested in it in Scotland which has always shown a great respect for the principles of international law on which the "Scot abroad" has to rely.

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.

THE LORD PRIVY SEAL (The Marquess of RIPON): My noble friend Lord Stanmore has been obliged to leave the House, and on his behalf I beg to move, with one alteration, the Motion which stands in his name. I am grieved to say that it is necessary to delete the name of my noble friend the Lord Steward (the Earl of Liverpool), whose state of health makes it impossible for him to attend the meetings of the Committee.

Moved, "That a Select Committee be appointed to continue the inquiry with respect to the unfinished condition of the rooms in the Palace of Westminster appropriated to the service of this House and their approaches, and that the Lords following be named of the Committee:—M. Cholmondeley, E. Carlisle, E. Brownlow, E. Lytton, E. Plymouth, L. Denman, L. Stanmore."—(*The Marquess of Ripon.*)

On Question, Motion agreed to.

The Committee to meet on Wednesday next at Eleven o'clock, and to appoint their own Chairman.

House adjourned at ten minutes past Six o'clock, to Monday next, a quarter before Eleven o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Thursday, 21*st February*, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

MR. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—Taff Vale Railway Bill; Great Western, London and North Western, and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill; London and North Western Railway Bill; London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill; North Eastern and Lancashire and Yorkshire Railways Bill; Plymouth and

North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill; Falmouth Gas Bill; Basingstoke Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 63 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 63 has been compiled with, viz.:—Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill; Shanklin Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a Second time.

PROVISIONAL ORDER BILLS (NO STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, no Standing Orders are applicable, viz.:—London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill; Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time to-morrow.

PORTOBELLO AND MUSSELBURGH TRAMWAYS (PORT SETON DEVIATION) ORDER CONFIRMATION BILL.

Considered; to be read the third time upon Monday next.

PETITIONS.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour; From Alnwick; Enfield; and, Richmond; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ECCLESIASTICAL COMMISSION (METROPOLITAN BUILDING ESTATES, PUBLIC HOUSES).

Return [presented 20th February] to be printed. [No. 41.]

IRISH LAND COMMISSION (PROCEEDINGS).

Copy presented, of Return of Proceedings of the Irish Land Commission during the month of December, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

FERTILISERS AND FEEDING STUFFS ACT, 1906.

Copy presented, of Regulations made by the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

FOREIGN JURISDICTION ACT, 1890.

Copies presented, of three Orders in Council of 11th February, 1907, entitled (1) The Northern Nigeria Order in Council, 1907; (2) The Corea Order in Council, 1907; (3) The China and Corea (Amendment) Order in Council, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EXPLOSIVES ACT, 1875.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 11th February, 1907, amending the Orders in Council of the 27th November, 1875, relating to Stores licensed for Gunpowder and for mixed Explosives respectively [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

EXTRADITION ACTS, 1870 TO 1906.

Copy presented, of Order in Council of 11th February, 1907, for giving effect to a Supplementary Convention which was concluded on the 12th April, 1905, between His Majesty and the President of the United States of America for the Mutual Extradition of Fugitive Criminals [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (IMPERIAL YEOMANRY).

Copy presented, of Training Return of Imperial Yeomanry for 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of Interim Report of the War Office Committee on the Provision of Officers (a) for service with the Regular Army in war, and (b) for the Auxiliary Forces [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATE, 1906–7.

Copy presented, of Supplementary Estimate for the Army for the year 1906–7 [by Command]; Referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 40.]

TRADE REPORTS (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3745 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

COLONIAL CONFERENCE, 1907.

Copy presented, of Despatch from the Secretary of State for the Colonies, with Enclosures respecting the Agenda of the Colonial Conference, 1907 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

TRANSVAAL.

Copy presented, of Report of the Foreign Labour Department, Johannesburg, for 1905–6 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

NORTH SEA FISHERIES INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE.

Copy presented, of Second Report (Northern Area) on Fishery and Hydrographical Investigations in the North Sea and Adjacent Waters, 1904–5. Part I. Hydrography [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Copy presented, of Draft Order in Council amending the Order of the 7th August, 1900, providing for the establishment of a Consultative Committee [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

POST OFFICE (MONEY ORDERS).

Copy presented, of the Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations 1907. Dated 30th January, 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

COAL EXPORTED.

Return ordered, "giving, for the year 1906, the Export of Coal from each Port in the United Kingdom to each Country Abroad, together with summary statements showing the Export of Coal in every period of three months from the principal districts of the United Kingdom to the principal groups of Foreign Countries; and also showing the quantity of Coal shipped in each Port in the United Kingdom for ships' use on Foreign voyages during like periods (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 121, of Session 1906.)"—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

PRICES OF EXPORTED COAL.

Return ordered, "giving the quantities of Coal exported from each of the principal Ports in the United Kingdom by quarterly periods in 1906 at prices not exceeding 5s., above 5s. but not exceeding 6s., above 6s. but not exceeding 7s., and so on (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 111, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. D. A. Thomas.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Postal Officials' Annual Leave.

SIR G. KEKEWICH (Exeter): To ask the Postmaster-General why, seeing that the Order in Council of 15th August, 1890, which required seven hours daily service, allowed thirty-six and, in certain cases, forty-eight week-days of annual leave to Civil Servants drawing salaries or placed on scales of salary in excess of those of the Second Division, that amount of annual leave has not been granted to officers in the postal service, though it has been granted to officers of similar rank in other departments.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The question of the leave granted to officers of the Post Office is under my consideration. The present rules, which are of long standing, are in some respects more favourable and in others less favourable than those contemplated by the Order in Council to which the hon. Member refers.

Belfast Telegraphist's Grievance.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General, whether his attention has been called to the fact that a telegraphist at Belfast has been stopped at the efficiency bar, because of his ignorance of counter duties; and whether, in view of the fact that the assurance given at the time of the Norfolk-Hanbury Conference, that nothing should be required for passage over the efficiency bar beyond what had been previously required of a telegraphist proceeding from the second class to the first class, has by insisting upon a knowledge of counter duties from telegraphists at Belfast been departed from, he can state why this telegraphist has been expected to become more highly qualified than other telegraphists in large offices in the United Kingdom.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The officer to whom the hon. Member appears to refer was not stopped at the efficiency bar solely because he had been unsuccessful in performing counter duties. He proved to be incompetent also on some of the highest duties in the instrument room; and this failure of itself made it necessary to withhold the certificate of ability to perform the highest duties of his class without which no officer can proceed beyond the efficiency bar. Nothing in the treatment of the case is inconsistent with the principles laid down by the Norfolk-Hanbury Conference.

Vacancies in the Glasgow Telegraph Office.

MR. BARNES (Glasgow, Blackfriars): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that several vacancies exist in the superior grades of officials at the Glasgow telegraph office; whether he is aware that the local authorities state that the delay in issuing the promotion rests with the headquarter staff, London; and whether, in view of the official assurances given before the Committee on Post Office Wages that no delays took place, he will direct that all promotions should date from the period the various positions became vacant.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The delay has been unavoidable, certain questions of a complicated character having arisen in connection with the selection of officers to fill the vacant posts. I shall be prepared to take all the circumstances into consideration when deciding from what date to carry out the promotions.

Naval Manœuvres Report.

MR. BELLAIRS (Lynn Regis): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what department of the Admiralty compiled the Report of the naval manœuvres; whether he is aware that the Report suppresses all mention of the engine-room breakdowns and failures on the part of vessels to keep up with their fleet and squadrons so vitally affecting their movements, while on the other hand it chronicles many petty details of movements; and whether he will inquire if the Department in question is adequately staffed.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The Report of the manœuvres was compiled by the chief umpire and the umpires all confidential matter being excluded.

Associations of Schools.

MR. BERTRAM (Hertfordshire,) Hitchin): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he can state what have been the receipts and expenditure, from their foundation up to the coming into force of the Education Act, 1902, of the associations of schools established under the Voluntary Schools Act, 1897, and what balance remained in their hands at the latter date; whether any of these associations still exist; and, if so, what is their present legal *status* and position, and what are the duties they now discharge; whether he can give particulars of the receipts and expenditure of such last-mentioned associations (if any) from the coming into force of the Education Act, 1902, up to the present time, showing the balances now remaining undisposed of in the hands of each association; and whether he can show in any statements of those accounts what sums have been received from Parliamentary grants and from private subscriptions separately.

(*Answered by Mr. McKenna.*) I regret it is impossible within the limits of an Answer to discuss the complex matters dealt with in my hon. friend's Question, and I can only refer him to the volume of Aid Grant Statistics [Cd. 2412 of 1905], published by the Board of Education, and more especially to the prefatory memorandum and the summary on page 203. This volume contains all the information in the possession of the Board on the subject.

Tidworth Sewage Pumps.

CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether the engines lately supplied at Tidworth for sewage disposal were made in Germany; whether the pumps at the same place were made in America; and whether any English firms were asked to tender for these engines or pumps; and, if so, why their tenders were refused.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) These services were authorised in the time of my predecessor. The engines in question were made by the Diesel Engine Company, and are presumably of German manufacture. The pumps were supplied by Mr. F. Nell, and are of American manufacture. It appears that the decision was made by the Department in accordance with the advice of its technical experts.

Consumptive Soldiers.

COLONEL SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby): To ask the Secretary of State for War how many men were discharged from the Army during the past year suffering from tubercle of the lung; how many of these men were sent to their homes, with a notification to the local medical officer of health; and how many were sent direct to hospitals or sanatoria, stating the particular hospitals or sanatoria and the numbers sent to each.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The statistics available at the War Office do not contain the required information. It will be necessary to call for Returns from all Army hospitals at home. When the information has been collected I will have it forwarded to my hon. and gallant friend.

Mountmellick Soldier's Pension.

MR. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): To ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that a pensioner, named Patrick McEvoy, Mountmellick, Queen's County, registered No. 1,487, 1st Battalion Royal Scots, served in the Army over twenty years, twelve and a half years of which were served in India, and, while there, contracted diseases, from the effects of which he never recovered; and, seeing that McEvoy's pension amounts to 7½d. per day, and that he is now over seventy years of age and totally unable to work, whether his pension will be increased by such a sum as will prevent his having recourse to the union for relief and becoming chargeable on the rates.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) This man was discharged at his own request and not for disability. As he had no war service and no good conduct badges the pension of 7½d. is the highest permissible under the regulations applicable to him.

Stradbally Soldier's Pension.

MR. MEEHAN: To ask the Secretary of State for War whether his attention has been called to the Report of the meeting of the Athy (county Kildare) Board of Guardians, held on Wednesday, 13th inst., from which it appears that an ex-soldier, named Thomas Pike, formerly a resident in Stradbally, Queen's County, and chargeable to that district, having served in the 76th Company, Royal Artillery, was invalided from India to Netley Hospital, from which he was discharged on 2nd May, 1905; whether he is aware that Pike was granted a pension of 8d. per day for one year, which expired on 1st April, 1906; and whether seeing that this ex-soldier is now destitute, a confirmed invalid, an inmate of the union hospital at the cost of the local rates, a pension will be granted or a contribution made to recoup the rates the cost of his maintenance.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) I have not seen the Report of the meeting in question. The man referred to, whose name is Pilk, enlisted on 23rd July, 1900, and deserted in September 1900; he rejoined in June 1903. He was invalided for illness not attributable to his service as a soldier. The Commissioners of Chelsea Hospital state that he is therefore not entitled to any further pension.

Sparkbrook Gun Factory.

MR. DUNCAN (Barrow-in-Furness): To ask the Secretary of State for War if, in the contracts given by the Government to the purchasers of the Sparkbrook Gun Factory, as a condition of purchase, there is any condition or understanding that the firm shall employ upon the orders apportioned to this particular factory the workmen who were employed at the time of its sale.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) One of the conditions of sale was that the purchaser should give preference as regards employment to the men employed by the War Department at date of giving possession, and it will be the business of this department to see that this condition is observed.

Repatriated Chinese.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the total number of Chinese already repatriated from the Transvaal, what was the number of Chinese employed in the mines at the date of the posting of the repatriation proclamation; what is the total number at present employed; and what is the number estimated to be repatriated before 31st March.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The total number of Chinese coolies repatriated up to 31st January, 1907, was 7,344. The number employed on the mines on 30th April, 1906, about a fortnight before the repatriation notice was posted, was 49,832. The number employed on 31st December, 1906, was 52,917. I cannot say what further number may be repatriated before 31st March.

Poor Law Expenditure.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state what was the entire expenditure from rates, including expenditure out of loans and from any other source, if any, of Poor Law administration since the passing of the Act of 1834 to the end of the financial year, 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The aggregate expenditure, ordinarily classed as relating to the relief of the poor, of the guardians of the poor, and other local authorities in England and Wales during the period of seventy-two years referred to was approximately £554,000,000.

Trade Statistics.

MR. J. D. WHITE (Dumbartonshire): To ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state what were the aggregate imports, exports, and re-exports, together with the total of these, for the United Kingdom, the United States, France, and Germany, respectively, for the year 1906; what was the estimated population of each of these countries respectively for that year; and what were the imports, exports, and re-exports, together with the total of these, per head of population in each of these countries respectively for that year.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The particulars at present available do not enable all the information asked for to be given in respect of all the countries mentioned in the Question. The following figures, however, show for each of these countries the imports for Home consumption and the exports of domestic produce during 1906 :—

Foreign Trade and Population of the United Kingdom, United States, France, and Germany in the year 1906.

	United Kingdom.	United States.	France.	Germany.
Foreign Trade :—				
Imports for Home Consumption - -	£ 522,825,000	£ 269,941,000	£ 209,177,000	£ 392,526,000
Exports of Domestic Produce - -	375,673,000	369,325,000	201,747,000	306,250,000
Total of above -	898,498,000	639,266,000	410,924,000	698,766,000
Estimated Population in the middle of the year	No. 43,659,000	No. 84,154,000	No. 39,400,000	No. 61,337,000
Foreign Trade per head of the Population :—				
Imports for Home Consumption - -	£ *s.* *d.* 11 19 6	£ *s.* *d.* 3 4 2	£ *s.* *d.* 5 6 2	£ *s.* *d.* 6 8 0
Exports of Domestic Produce - -	8 12 1	4 7 9	5 2 5	4 19 10
Total of above -	20 11 7	7 11 11	10 8 7	11 7 10

Notes.—(1) The imports for Home consumption are calculated, in the case of the United Kingdom and United States, by deducting the value of the re-exports from the gross value of the imports in 1906.

(2) The values of imports and exports stated in the German and French official accounts are for the most part computed on the basis of the ascertained average prices of 1905.

Belfast and Lisburn Railway Tickets.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Great Northern Railway Company of Ireland has discontinued second-class accommodation between Belfast and Lisburn and declines to allow holders of second-class subscription tickets to travel first-class, whilst refusing to refund the difference between second-class and third-class tickets; and whether the Board of Trade will cause inquiries to be made in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*). The Board of Trade are in communication with the railway company in this matter, and will acquaint the hon. Member with the result.

Castleton Railway Fatality.

MR. BELL (Derby): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to a fatal accident on 12th February at Castleton, Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway, to a goods guard, Fred Wilkinson; if he is aware that at the time of the accident he had been on duty nearly fifteen hours; and whether he will, at an early date, call for a return of the hours worked by engine-drivers, firemen, goods guards, and brakesmen of goods mineral trains on all railways for the month of January, with a view to putting a stop to the present excessive hours of duty worked by these classes of railway employees.

(*Answered by Mr. Kearley.*) A Return of this accident has been received from the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company, in which it is stated that the unfortunate man killed had been on duty for fourteen and three-quarter hours at the time of the mishap. An inquiry into the circumstances attending the accident will be held, and the question of the hours worked will be investigated. As my hon. friend was informed on Friday last,† it is proposed to call for a general Return of the hours of certain classes of railway servants, including those specified by him, for an early month.

Crews of Customs Launches—Hours of Labour.

MR. STEADMAN (Finsbury, Central): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury when a decision is likely to be come to respecting the crews of the Customs' launches contained in the Question of the hon. Member for Central Finsbury of the 6th November, 1906.‡

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The memorial is still the subject of inquiry, but I hope a decision will shortly be arrived at.

Tea Transit.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether, under the existing arrangements of transit of tea from the quay to the bonded warehouse, it is possible for merchants to tamper with it; whether merchants are allowed to convey it on their own carts; and whether they are allowed in such cases to call at their own stores *en route*.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that tea in transit from the importing ship to bonded warehouse for first weighing is invariably removed under Crown lock, plomb-seal, or in charge of an officer; it is not possible, therefore, for it to be tampered with in transit. Merchants in London, if duly licensed as bonded carmen, may convey unweighed teas to bonded warehouses in their own vehicles, subject to these being secured by Crown lock or seal. At outports the licensing of carmen is not deemed necessary, and merchants there may use their own vehicles for the removal of such teas if accompanied by an officer. The conveying vehicles are not allowed to call at their owners' stores *en route*, inasmuch as under the regulations and departmental practice all carmen, whether licensed or not, are required to convey the goods received into their charge "by the most direct and convenient way, and in the least possible time, to the place appointed for their delivery."

Naval Strength.

MR. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many battleships and armoured cruisers were fully manned on 1st May, 1906, and how many will be fully manned under the new scheme of distribution that is about to take effect.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) The number of battleships fully manned on 1st May, 1906, was thirty-two, excluding the "Renown," employed on special service, and the number of armoured cruisers nineteen. Under the new scheme there will be thirty-two battleships, and twenty-five cruisers fully manned.

Nucleus Crews.

MR. BELLAIRS: To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty how many skilled and how many unskilled ratings are embraced in the two-fifths complement of nucleus crews, and how many will then be in the new skeleton crews; and how many battleships and cruisers which, on 1st May, 1906, were fully manned or partially manned, will, under the new scheme of distribution, be degraded to ships with skeleton crews.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) It has always been the practice of the Admiralty to treat details of complement as strictly confidential, and I regret, therefore, that I cannot give my hon. friend the information asked for.

---

† See Cols. 414–5.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, clxiv., 313.

Opium Traffic.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary of State for India whether he has received a copy of a Resolution carried at a recent meeting of the United Free Church Presbytery of Lochcarron, Ross-shire, urging that the traffic in opium between India and China should cease; and will he state what action is being taken in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The Resolution was received by me, as a great number of such Resolutions have been received, and duly acknowledged. For the action that His Majesty's Government are taking on the proposals of the Chinese Government, I would refer my hon. friend to my Answer to a Question on 19th February.†

Mr. Addison's Delhi Appointment.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, having regard to the fact that the appointment of Mr. Addison, a junior member of the Civil Service of India, to the office of secretary of the Delhi municipality, will result in Mr. Addison's having to try cases as a magistrate which it will be his duty, as Municipal Secretary, to institute, will he state whether the question of rescinding the appointment has yet been considered.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have ascertained from the Government of India that Mr. Addison, while employed as secretary to the Delhi municipality, is expressly debarred from trying cases in which the municipality is concerned as prosecutor or defendant.

Bhola District Courts.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he is aware that the sub-divisional officer attached to the Bhola District of India is irregular in regard to the holding of courts, and that it not infrequently happens that he alters his arrangements for holding a court without any public notice whatever, with the result that suitors and witnesses spend an entire day awaiting his arrival at a court to find eventually that the court was being held at some other place; and will inquiry be made with a view to the adoption of some satisfactory system of holding courts in this district.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) I have no information on this subject. If any irregularities can be shown in detail I will draw the attention of the Government of India to it.

Indian Railway Rolling Stock.

SIR SEYMOUR KING (Hull, Central): To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether he will state how much of the rolling stock under the Budget allotment of 382 lakhs for the financial year ending next 31st March, has been actually delivered in India, and brought into use to date; and whether steps can be taken to accelerate the increase of rolling stock announced in answer to a question on 29th March, 1906.†

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) The information asked for by the hon. Member is not immediately available. Owing to the length of time required for the manufacture of rolling stock, indents sanctioned against the allotment for any particular year cannot in general be complied with within that year. The expenditure on rolling stock on open lines for 1907–8, which was stated in my reply of 29th March, 1906,† at £2,253,333, has been increased to £2,787,000.

Gotgeik Railway Bridge.

MR. WALSH (Lancashire, Ince): To ask the Secretary of State for India, whether his attention has been directed to the condition of the Gotgeik railway bridge, Upper Burma; and whether, having regard to the general conditions attendant upon the erection of the bridge, he can lay before the House any information as to the stability of the structure.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Morley.*) Since the answer given on 13th June, 1904,‡ by my predecessor to a question in this House regarding the Gotgeik bridge, no information has been received at the India Office that would lead me to suppose that there is any cause for anxiety as to its stability, but I will make inquiry.

---

† See Col. 702.

† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 1521.

‡ See (4) *Debates*, cxxxv., 1475.

Dublin Public Buildings.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, S. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will consider the advisability of renovating the stone frontages of the Custom House Post Office, and Four Courts in Dublin, seeing that those buildings require such treatment.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am informed that these buildings are in good structural condition and do not require repair.

Lough Corrib Ferry Service.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, whether his attention has been called to the need of a ferry service upon Lough Corrib between Kilbeg and Oughterard; whether the Galway County Council has expressed its willingness to provide and work such a ferry service, but has been advised by the Local Government Board that they have no power to do so; and will he take steps to obtain the necessary powers for the county council.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The attention of the Irish Government has been called to the need of a ferry service over Lough Corrib. The Galway County Council have expressed their willingness to provide and work such a ferry with the aid of contributions which have been offered by the Congested Districts Board and the Department of Agriculture. The Council, however, have been advised, not by the Local Government Board, but by their own counsel, that in the present state of the Law they have no power to incur the necessary expense. As to the possibility of legislation in such case, I beg to refer to the reply given by the Attorney General for Ireland to the Question of the hon. Member for West Clare on the 18th inst.†

Lloyd Estate, County Cavan.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, if he will state whether an inspector from the Estates Commissioners has yet visited the Lloyd estate, county Cavan; and will he see that the evicted tenant, Ellen Reilly, is not prejudiced by the delay, and that the lands untenanted on this estate prior to the sale are sold with the rest of this estate to former tenants, their friends, or owners of uneconomic holdings in the district.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have not yet had an inspection made of the estate in question. They will consider the case of Ellen Reilly in the event of any untenanted land on the estate becoming available for distribution.

Cushendall Water Supply.

MR. J. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the present position of the scheme for the water supply to Cushendall, county Antrim; and when the Provisional Order Bill will be introduced.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have recently held an inquiry into the scheme referred to, and are satisfied that it is a suitable one. The Provisional Order is in course of preparation, and will be submitted to Parliament for confirmation as soon as possible.

Irish Drainage Commission.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, when the Report of the Drainage Commission will be presented; and whether any interim Report has yet been made.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that the Report of the Arterial Drainage Commission has been completed, and is at present in course of circulation for signature by the members. It will be presented as soon as possible. It was not considered necessary to make an *ad interim* Report.

Finner Camp Range.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Secretary of State for War, why it is proposed to discontinue the use, in connection with Finner Camp, county

---

† See Col. 527.

Donegal, of the 800 yards range on the lands of Mr. H. W. Lilceby; is he aware that this range was considered exceedingly useful by General Leech when in command at the camp, and was very much used by the troops under his command; and is it proposed to acquire another 800 yards range on the lands of another person near the camp, and on what grounds is the change adopted.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The land in question is not required for musketry purposes as there is a range on War Department land available in the vicinity. The General Officer commanding reports that nothing is known of the proposed hiring of another 500 yards range near Finner to which the last part of the Question alludes.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Admiralty Tenders.

MR. WEDGWOOD (Newcastle-under-Lyme): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether the opportunity to tender for Admiralty requirements is strictly limited to a few leading manufacturers with large powers of production who are on what is known as the Admiralty list; whether he is aware that a source of supply from smaller makers is thereby rendered unavailable, and that both prices and quality suffer; and whether he is aware that it is the practice of the Secretary of State for India and the boards of most of the Indian railway companies to obtain their supplies of all railway plant, rolling stock, materials, etc., by open advertisement; and whether the Admiralty will also reconsider their practice in this matter.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): In the case of most articles it is the practice of the Admiralty, in common with other great purchasing Departments, to restrict invitations to tender to firms known to be capable of meeting requirements, both as regards quality and punctuality in delivery. All applicants are admitted to the Admiralty list who satisfy the Department as to their capability, and the list is only confined to the leading manufacturers in cases where requirements cannot be met except by contractors possessing special plant and resources. In all other cases small firms are admitted if they come up to the required standard. It is understood that the India Office follows substantially the same procedure as the Admiralty in purchasing similar articles, and it is only in the case of railway materials—which the Admiralty do not purchase to any considerable extent—that the India Office resorts to advertisement. The Admiralty procedure is directed towards obtaining the widest competition compatible with the punctual delivery of satisfactory supplies. With this object, the procedure is from time to time reviewed, but no sufficient reason is seen for departing from the present practice.

Patrol Ships.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether it is the intention of the Government to place in commission, for duty as patrol ships in outlying stations of the Empire, any of the ships at present appearing in the Navy List as available for subsidiary service.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The Answer is in the negative.

Reorganisation of the Auxiliary Forces.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he can now conveniently communicate to the House the printed paragraphs of questions submitted to the Committee on the Reorganisation of the Auxiliary Forces by the Chairman as identical with those put before it by himself as Secretary of State; and the recommendations of the Committee with regard to them.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): I propose to give the House, as I promised, full information on introducing the Territorial and Reserve Forces Bill. The specific questions put to and the replies by the Committee to which my right hon. friend alludes were for my own guidance. I do not therefore think that their publication would materially assist the House to the better understanding of the terms of the Bill or the reasons which led up to those terms.

Army Order on Soldiers' Emoluments.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether any public explanation has been made by the War Office of the Army Order on soldiers' emoluments, as affecting, not only enlistment after 1st October last, but also extension of service after that date.

*MR. HALDANE: No official memorandum in explanation of the changes in the soldiers' emoluments alluded to has yet been published by the War Office, but I shall refer to it in the printed statement which I shall issue immediately with the Army Estimates.

Recent Army Orders on Service Pay.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the effect of the recent orders is to abolish service pay as regards all men enlisted or altering their terms of service after 1st October last; and, if not, whether he will state under what warrant or order service pay continues to exist; whether, as regards soldiers enlisted before the 1st October, the effect of Army Order 231 has been to deprive any, and, if so, how many, men of service pay previously enjoyed; and whether he will state the total diminution of pay of privates under the recent orders.

MR. HALDANE: The effect of Army Order 231 of 1906 is to apply the new conditions to all men enlisting or entering into a new contract on or after the 1st October, 1906. Men serving before the 1st October, 1906, will retain service pay for the whole period of any contract into which they had entered before that date, their vested rights being thus scrupulously respected. Men not belonging to the cavalry, artillery, and infantry will not be eligible for service or proficiency pay from the date from which any new contract into which they have been permitted to enter, subsequent to the 30th September, begins to run. The number at present affected is small and the reduction in emoluments cannot be carried out for a long period of years. It is not yet possible to state what will be the ultimate effect of the change. The rates of service pay in force when the new warrant was promulgated varied from 4d. to 7d. a day; the rates of proficiency pay are either 3d. or 6d. It is proposed to make the provision of the 3d. messing allowance to the recruit on enlistment instead of merely after six months a first charge on any savings under the new system which may accumulate.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether there are any cases in respect of which neither service pay nor proficiency pay will exist.

MR. HALDANE: Proficiency pay is given only to men of the cavalry, artillery, and infantry, and will gradually replace service pay. Soldiers of the Royal Engineers, Army Service Corps, Army Ordnance Corps, Royal Army Medical Corps, and Army Veterinary Corps who receive Engineer and Corps pay, and certain other small groups like the Military Police, Army Pay Corps, etc., whose ordinary rate of pay already includes remuneration for technical qualification, are not eligible for proficiency pay, and only those will draw service pay who are entitled to it under contracts into which they entered before the 1st October, 1906.

Imprisonment for Vagrancy in India.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can state the number of persons in India who were sentenced in 1905 to rigorous imprisonment for a period of a year or more because they were unable to find security in answer to a charge of bad livelihood or vagrancy.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): The statistics at my disposal do not show for all provinces the period or the nature (whether rigorous or simple) of the imprisonment of persons sentenced to be confined in default of furnishing security for good behaviour; but the total of such persons in the whole of India in 1905 was 15,515.

Lahore Editor's Conviction.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been drawn to the sentences of imprisonment for two years and fine of 1,000 rupees and of imprisonment for six months and fine of 200 rupees inflicted on the proprietor and editor of the *Punjabi*, a newspaper published at Lahore, for the publication, with comments thereon, of a statement, now proved to be false, that about two years ago a Mahomedan policeman had been shot by his superior European officer; and whether the Government of India are prepared to exercise the clemency of the Crown in reducing these sentences.

MR. MORLEY: I am informed that an appeal has already been entered, and that, pending the result of the appeal, the convicted men have been released on bail. A second appeal would be open, if the first were to confirm the sentence. I see no reason to take any action at present.

Indian Judiciary.

DR. RUTHERFORD (Middlesex, Brentford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India when it is intended to make permanent appointments to the two puisne judgeships of His Majesty's High Court at Madras, which have been vacant for the past six months; and whether, bearing in mind the recommendations of the Public Service Commission, and the advisability of associating to a larger extent qualified persons of Indian nationality with the executive and judicial administration of the country, due consideration will be paid to the claims of Indian lawyers to one of the appointments.

MR. MORLEY: Proposals regarding the strength of the Madras High Court are now under my consideration in council. As soon as orders have been passed, very shortly, I hope, I shall proceed to make appointments. The view which the hon. Member represents will be borne in mind, but I must remind him that the constitution of the Court is fixed by law.

New Hebrides Convention—Employment of Girl Labour.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what moral protection will, under the New Hebrides Convention, be provided for native female children who, being of a certain height, as provided in Article 33, become liable to engagement as recruited labourers, subject to the consent of the chief of their tribe; whether such protection, if any, will be afforded to these children on the journey to their destination, and after their arrival thereat; whether persons of extra-European race will be allowed to engage such children; and whether any means will be taken to ensure that the chief of the tribe consenting to the engagement of such children is a fit and proper person to undertake that responsibility.

THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (Mr. CHURCHILL, Manchester, N.W.): No recruiting of native labourers can take place except under a licence from one of the High Commissioners as provided in Article XXXI. Under Article XXXVII. the recruiter remains responsible for the natives whom he has engaged until they are handed over to the employer; and under Article XXXVIII. an official Report is to be immediately drawn up and sent to the competent authority if irregularities are detected in the operations of the recruiter. There is no provision in the Convention to prevent natives being engaged in the New Hebrides by persons of extra-European race, but they will of course, be subject, in such matters, to the legislation in force in the places in which they reside. If, when the Convention comes into operation it appears that the chiefs of the tribes are not competent to exercise their responsibilities as to the engagement of unmarried females, the High Commissioners will be able to introduce such regulations as may be necessary to ensure the protection desired.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: Can the hon. Gentleman inform us what practical steps will be taken to ensure that all persons to whom power is delegated in the supervision of contracts by which women and children are engaged are responsible people and fit to exercise that important duty?

MR. CHURCHILL: I have already informed the House that the English and French Commissioners will jointly consider these important matters, which have been hitherto unregulated.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: Have no powers been delegated hitherto?

MR. CHURCHILL: There has been no efficient or general regulation of the system of recruiting.

*LORD BALCARRES (Lancashire, Chorley): What inspection will be secured to these women and children when indentured in foreign countries which neither belong to England nor to France?

MR. CHURCHILL: Notice should be given of such a Question.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend): Will these young females be allowed to be sent to New Caledonia?

MR. CHURCHILL: That Question affects the French part of the Agreement, and I must have notice.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) asked whether there was any provision for securing the knowledge of the ultimate destination of these women and children under the Convention.

MR. CHURCHILL said that the instructions for carrying out the Convention might be amplified to any extent by the Commissioners on the spot. These instructions were not yet prepared, and when they were prepared they would be found to deal with the points mentioned.

SIR GILBERT PARKER: Do we understand that England will only have control over such natives as may be employed at Fiji and other British possessions and that France will have absolute control over those sent to New Caledonia, or is the control to be a joint control?

MR. CHURCHILL: That is obviously a Question of which I should have notice.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) asked whether the hon. Gentleman stated as a matter of law and construction of documents that regulations could be made forbidding the employment of children.

MR. CHURCHILL: I cannot reply without notice on a question of constitutional law.

MR. STAVELEY HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what regulations and system of inspection will be employed, in order to ensure that the recruiting and engagement of native labourers is carried out in accordance with the New Hebrides Convention; and, if so, will he lay the Papers upon the Table of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: It is impossible at this stage to forecast precisely what regulations may be necessary to supplement the provisions of the Convention in regard to the recruiting and engagement of native labourers in the New Hebrides. As to the system of inspection, I may refer the hon. Member to paragraphs 50 and 54 of the despatch printed on pages 53 to 66 of the recent Blue-book. Both regulations and the system of inspection will be settled in details by the High Commissioner and the Resident Commissioner, subject of course to the approval of His Majesty's Government, and the hon. Member may rest assured that they will be adequate. The question of publishing any correspondence on the subject will be considered when it has taken place.

MR. STAVELEY HILL: Will there be female inspectors for the women?

MR. CHURCHILL: That is a matter of detail not yet determined.

MR. STAVELEY HILL: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the minimum height of children recruited under the terms of the New Hebrides Convention has yet been fixed.

MR. CHURCHILL: As the hon. Member will have gathered from my reply on Tuesday to a Question of the hon. Member for the Ludlow division of Shropshire, the Answer is in the negative.†

MR. WALKER (Leicestershire, Melton): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether in any further negotiations with the French Government in regard to the exportation of labourers from the New Hebrides he will bear in mind the safeguards against abuses in the over-sea traffic under the British flag, contained in Section 3 of the Pacific Islanders' Protection Act of 1872, and seek to secure that, if this section be repealed, it shall be replaced by more stringent regulations acceptable to both

---

† See Col. 706.

Governments, and such as shall be made mandatory upon their nationals, whether in the islands or upon the high seas.

MR. CHURCHILL: This matter is under consideration.

MR. WALKER: Cannot we have some definite assurance on this matter?

MR. CHURCHILL: I can give no assurances in reply to a supplementary Question.

The Pacific Islanders' Protection Act, 1872.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Government intend to introduce a Bill amending the Pacific Islanders' Protection Act, 1872, to give effect to the Convention between this country and France respecting the New Hebrides, as foreshadowed in the despatch to the Governor-General of Australia, dated 9th March 1906.

MR. CHURCHILL: His Majesty's Government are advised that, for legal reasons, an Act of Parliament is desirable to empower His Majesty to carry out the provisions of the New Hebrides Convention; and it is proposed to take the opportunity to amend, as far as the New Hebrides are concerned, Section 3 of the Pacific Islanders' Protection Act, 1872, under which no British vessel can carry labourers from one island to another, even within the same group, unless the master has given a bond for £500. This sum has been found prohibitive in the case of small planters such as the British settlers in the New Hebrides, and has consequently had the most serious effect on British enterprise in those Islands. It is consequently proposed to dispense with the bond in cases where a resident British Officer can see that proper regulations are enforced for the control and supervision of recruiting.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: Can the hon. Gentleman give any indication of the date when the Bill will be brought in?

MR. CHURCHILL: Questions relating to the business of the House should be addressed to the Leader of the House.

Indian Traders in Natal.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the attention of the Colonial Secretary has been drawn to the character of the recent application of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1897, in Tongaat village, Natal; whether he is aware that the licensing officer of that division declined to renew for this year the trading licenses of the larger portion of the Indian storekeepers, on the ground of their having failed to keep their business books in the English language; and whether, seeing that the licensing officer is the nominee of the local council or board, which is the sole court of appeal from his decisions, and that the members of such council or board are chiefly storekeepers, he will take steps to protect such Indian subjects from such a punishment as the loss of their livelihood and total ruin.

MR. CHURCHILL: I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given on the 18th to the hon. Member for the Brentford Division of Middlesex † with regard to the Dealers' Licences Act to which I presume it is intended to refer. Inquiry will be made with regard to the particular case referred to.

Vrededorp Indian Traders.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies what steps the Government have taken to protect the vested interests of those British Indian residents of Vrededorp, Transvaal, who having paid sums of several hundreds of pounds each as transferees of their stands, and having been granted regular trading licences and built up business connections thereon will now, in terms of the Vrededorp Stands Ordinance, become dispossessed of their holdings; whether such persons will receive compensation; and whether, before sanctioning the Ordinance the attention of the Colonial Secretary was drawn to the entirely different treatment accorded to European transferees of these stands who in place of their squatter's title are to receive leases for terms of years.

---

† See Col. 540.

MR. CHURCHILL: I am not able at present to add anything to the reply returned to a similar Question on Tuesday.† The suggestion that compensation should be given has been brought to the attention of the Transvaal Government.

Opium in the New Hebrides.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it was ever brought to the notice of the French Government before the conclusion of the New Hebrides Convention that the Australasian Governments desired that opium as well as alcoholic liquors should be, under Article 59, prohibited from being supplied to the natives; and whether it was in consequence of objections made by the French that opium was not so included.

MR. CHURCHILL: As stated in paragraph 55 of the despatch printed on pages 53–66 of the recent Blue-book respecting the New Hebrides Convention, and in the telegrams printed on pages 50 and 51, His Majesty's Government were prepared to adopt the suggestion that the supply of opium to natives should be prohibited; but they were unable to put the suggestion to the French Government for the reasons stated in paragraphs 66–71 of the despatch above mentioned. I may add that I am informed that opium smoking is unknown or very rare among the natives in the New Hebrides.

Compensation for Workmen in the New Hebrides.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, considering the minimum scale of pay is 10s. a month for the indentured labourers recruited from the New Hebrides, he will consider the desirability of extending the principles of the Workmen's Compensation Act to these people, so that they may be ensured in case of accidents during their period of servitude.

MR. CHURCHILL: The question of compensation for accidents to labourers serving outside the New Hebrides must, of course, be governed by the law of the place where they serve. With regard to labourers serving in the New Hebrides, His Majesty's Government doubt whether, having regard to the present social condition of the group, the principles of the Workmen's Compensation Act could be effectively applied; but no doubt the introduction of more regular systems of government and administration throughout the Group will pave the way for continual improvements in the laws affecting the employment of labourers. I may observe that the rate of 10s. a month, which is to be taken as the rate of wages where no other sum is mentioned on the record, has been fixed because, from the information available, it appears that that is a usual rate for newly-recruited labourers in the Group.

Working Hours in the New Hebrides.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he will consider the necessity of extending the compulsory one hour of rest accorded to the indentured labourer recruited in the New Hebrides, whose work extends from sunrise to sunset.

MR. CHURCHILL: The hon. and gallant Member is mistaken in supposing that the work of indentured labourers in the New Hebrides extends from sunrise to sunset. There is nothing in the Convention to prescribe such a day's work; and as a matter of fact, the natives work mostly from 6 to 10 a.m and from 3 to 7 p.m. The intention of Article XLV. is to put an end to the existing possibility of abuses, by forbidding compulsory night work, and by securing a period of rest to the labourer during the day.

MR. ASHLEY: What guarantee is there against natives being compelled to work these long hours?

MR. CHURCHILL: The High Commissioner has considerable powers for supervising the conditions under which the natives are employed, and those powers constitute an entirely new departure from the system of non-regulation which obtains at present.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Would it not have been better to prescribe two or three hours rest instead of one?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is a Question as to a matter of opinion.

---

† See Col. 706.

Holidays for Native Labourers.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether some further provisions for holidays can be instituted for the indentured labourers recruited in the New Hebrides, beyond that of the Sabbath Day, during the three years or more of their indenture.

MR. CHURCHILL: There is at present no legal provision forbidding British planters in the New Hebrides to cause their labourers to work on Sundays. If it is found that the legal minimum of holidays is insufficient, His Majesty's Government will consider what steps can be taken to make further provisions.

Re-engagement of Female Labourers.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, with reference to Article No. 40 of the New Hebrides Convention, the words "or she" will be added to insure that women may have the same rights as men with regard to being re-engaged only at their own free will.

MR. CHURCHILL: His Majesty's Government are advised that having regard to the provisions of Articles 33 and 40 of the Convention the provisions referring to male labourers in Article 40 apply to females. The suggested addition of the hon. and gallant Member therefore appears unnecessary.

Colonial Governments and Conventions.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether in future arrangements with regard to neighbouring islands, Colonial Governments will be consulted before Conventions are signed.

MR. CHURCHILL: The hon. and gallant Member would have seen from the Blue-book on the subject, if he had studied it with ordinary attention, that the Colonial Governments concerned were fully consulted before His Majesty's Government were in any way committed to the New Hebrides Convention. This has been the usual practice in the past, and it will be continued as circumstances may permit in the future.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Is it not the case that the Governments of New Zealand and Australia disclaim responsibility under this Convention, and that they throw the whole responsibility on the Government?

MR. CHURCHILL: All matters connected with the framing and ratification of this Convention will be found by the hon. Member in the Blue-book if he will devote the necessary time to its perusal.

New Transvaal Legislature.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the intention of the Secretary of State to approve nominations to the Upper Chamber of the Transvaal before the opinion of the majority of the Lower House has been consulted.

MR. CHURCHILL: If my hon. friend will refer to Clause II. of the Letters Patent he will see that the first Council is to be summoned by the Governor, and that there is no reference to taking the opinion of the majority of the Lower House. The names of the members of the Council have been announced.

MR. SWIFT MACNEILL (Donegal, S.) asked whether the names nominated by Lord Selborne had been laid before the Colonial Office before being approved.

MR. CHURCHILL: Yes, Sir; they have been most carefully considered, and much correspondence has proceeded with regard to all the gentlemen who have been nominated.

Crown Agents and the Imperial Institute.

MR. WALKER: I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, seeing that the Crown Agents are not responsible to this House, by what means Parliamentary control will be secured over the expenditure of the sum of £1,400 which is to be granted to the Crown Agents towards the maintenance of the scientific and technical department of the Imperial Institute; whether this department is in future to be under the direction of the Crown Agents; and whether the Crown Agents will be entitled to draw any commission upon the sums that pass through their hands in this connection.

MR. CHURCHILL: The sum of £1,400 is not granted to the Crown Agents, but paid to a fund opened at the Crown Agents' Office. Neither the fund nor the department at the Imperial Institute is in any sense under the direction of the Crown Agents. It is not intended to pay to the Crown Agents' Office any commission in connection with the matter.

The Denshawi Affair.

*MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the report that it is the intention of the Egyptian Government to promote Ahmed Bey Fathy Zaglool, who acted as judge in the Denshawi affair, to a higher position; and whether he will direct His Majesty's representative in Egypt to advise the Egyptian Government against such action.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir EDWARD GREY, Northumberland, Berwick): His Majesty's Government have no information on the subject one way or the other. It does not appear to be a matter in which His Majesty's Government are called upon to interfere with the discretion of the Egyptian Government.

MR. DILLON: I beg to give notice that on the earliest possible day I shall raise this Question.

Madeira.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a Bill granting concessions to a German syndicate for the construction of hotels and the establishment of gambling rooms in the Island of Madeira has been introduced in the Portuguese Cortes; whether the said concessions contain clauses under which the concessionaires are exempted from the payment of import duty upon all materials they may bring into the island; and whether he can state to the House the result of any action which His Majesty's Government have taken in the matter.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I am informed that the Bill in question has been dropped, and it is therefore unnecessary to make any statement upon it.

Irish College in Paris.

MR. O'DOWD (Sligo, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in 1818, the Government of England collected an indemnity from France on account of the destruction of the Irish College in Paris during the Reign of Terror; and, if so, can he say whether the sum so collected has ever since been paid over to the college authorities by the British authorities.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The arrangement to which the hon. Member refers is presumably that embodied in the Convention of 1818, whereby a sum of money was assigned by the French Government to a Commission appointed to adjudicate on the claims of British subjects for losses sustained during the French Revolution. Full information was furnished as to the expenditure of this fund in the Papers laid before the House in 1871 and 1872. The claims advanced by the Irish College in this connection were not admitted by the Commissioners, and rejected, on appeal, by the Privy Council. It would be impossible now to take any further action in the matter, and I can only adhere to the Answer given on 3rd August, 1896.

Soudan War—Imprisoned Dervishes.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, notwithstanding that the war in the Soudan was concluded in 1899, several of the Dervish emirs or commanders are still imprisoned at Damietta, in Egypt, under severe disciplinary regulations; whether he will state the grounds for their continued incarceration; and whether, having regard to the present peaceful condition of the Soudan, he will recommend the authorities in Egypt to grant their immediate liberation.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have no information, but will make inquiries.

Egyptian School Teachers.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what has been the proportion of British subjects to natives employed as teachers and inspectors in Egyptian Government schools above the grade of kuttabs (elementary) during the last five years.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The whole subject is dealt with in Lord Cromer's Report for last year, which will shortly be presented to Parliament.

Egyptian Teachers' Salaries and Pensions.

DR. RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs what are the salaries and pensions payable to native and European teachers respectively in Egyptian Government schools above the grade of kuttab (elementary school); when were they fixed; within what period, if at all, and by how much, have they been augmented.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I will make inquiries and see whether the information desired by the hon. Member can be obtained.

Pellagra in Egypt.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the prevalence in Egypt of the disease pellagra, resulting from the ingestion of bad maize, he will advise the Egyptian Government to take some such measures of prevention as have been prescribed by the Italian law against pellagra of the 21st July, 1902.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have no information on the subject, but will make inquiries.

Military Conscription in Egypt.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, in view of the repeated official avowal that the present system of military conscription in Egypt, with exemption by purchase from ballotage, is a bad one, which cannot be defended on principle, as stated in Lord Cromer's Reports for 1904, p. 43, and 1905, p. 68; and in view of the fact that numbers of poor Egyptians annually sell their small possessions in order to purchase exemption, thus leaving the Army to be constituted by unwilling recruits, he will advise the Egyptian Government to take into consideration the expediency of establishing a system of paid military service, such as exists in Britain.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Lord Cromer, in the passages of his Reports cited by the hon. Member, gives the reasons which render the abolition of the present system difficult and inexpedient. The conditions of the country would make it impossible to introduce with success a military system such as exists in the United Kingdom; but the subject, as may be seen from Lord Cromer's Report, continues to engage attention.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: May I ask if that declaration is final? Will no other system be set up?

SIR EDWARD GREY: I said the subject continues to engage our attention. It therefore cannot be said to be final.

Language in Egyptian Schools.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been drawn to the fact that in the Government primary schools of Egypt object lessons and geography are taught in English only; that in the Government secondary schools history, geography, arithmetic, geometry, algebra, and science are taught in English or in French only; and that in the technical schools and professional colleges (with the exception of the school of law, where French is still partly used), all instruction is imparted in English only, and frequently by teachers who are quite unfamiliar with the vernacular; and whether, seeing that the employment of a foreign tongue as a medium of tuition increases the difficulty of acquiring accurate knowledge of any subject, and is regarded both by the parents of pupils and the pupils themselves as an unnecessary hardship, he will advise the Egyptian Government to employ the vernacular henceforth as the sole medium of tuition.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The language question constitutes a very difficult problem for the Egyptian Educational Department, chiefly owing to the dearth of teachers competent to give the necessary instruction in Arabic and the absence of scientific text books in that language. In the circumstances, the Egyptian Government are frequently placed in the dilemma of either giving instruction in a European language, or being content with an inferior standard of teaching. And, in general, they have preferred the former alternative. They are, however, fully alive to the objections referred to by the hon. Member, and are doing their best to remedy them by training competent native teachers.

Turkish Customs Duties.

EARL PERCY (Kensington, S.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he proposes to lay Papers relating to the progress of reforms in the European vilayets of the Turkish Empire; whether His Majesty's Government have given their assent to the proposed increase of the Turkish Customs duties; and, if so, on what conditions.

SIR EDWARD GREY: Papers on the subject are in the course of preparation, and will be laid in due course. The Answer to the last paragraph is in the negative, but the negotiations are in an advanced stage. In the event of the increase being agreed to, Papers will be laid which will fully explain the conditions.

Railways in Morocco.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any railway concessions have been granted in Morocco; and, if so, to whom.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The Answer is in the negative.

Norwegian Trawlers in the Moray Firth.

MR. MORTON (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a friendly arrangement could be made with the Norwegian Government to settle the question of trawling in the Moray Firth.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have no doubt that the Norwegian Government would be prepared to discuss the question with the view of coming to a friendly arrangement, but I must point out to the hon. Member that an arrangement between two Powers does not bind others and therefore could not dispose of the question. It must also be borne in mind that arrangements with other Powers would involve large questions of policy affecting the British fishing industry, which require careful consideration.

MR. MORTON: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the so-called foreign trawlers are really British vessels built with British capital and possibly improperly, though legally, using the Norwegian flag?

*MR. SPEAKER: That hardly arises out of the Question on the Paper.

New Hebrides Convention—Ratification.

MR. CARLILE (Hertfordshire, St. Albans): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs if the French Government has decided finally to ratify the New Hebrides Convention by means of legislation.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The French Government decided in December that the Convention could be ratified by Presidential Decree, and ratifications of the Convention were exchanged on January 9th last.

Aliens Act Return.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he is aware that the reasons for which leave to land was refused, under the Aliens Act, 1905, by immigration officers, are classified in the Return presented to Parliament, only under the two headings Want of means, etc., and Medical grounds; and whether, as such headings do not give any exact information as to the operation of the Act, particularly with reference to persons sentenced in a foreign country for crime, and persons against whom an expulsion order under the Act has been made, he will adopt another system of classification in future Returns.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): In my opinion the classification in question gives the most exact information possible as to the operation of the Act in regard to refusals of leave to land, inasmuch as the refusals have, so far, all fallen under paragraphs (*a*) and (*b*) of subsection (3) of the first section of the Act, which deal respectively with want of means and medical grounds. If, and when, a refusal occurs under paragraphs (*c*) and (*d*), that is to say, in a case where a conviction of an extradition crime or the existence of an expulsion order is proved against an alien, it will of course be shown.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH asked as to certain figures in the Return.

*MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. The right hon. Gentleman could not possibly carry all those figures in his head.

Factory Act—Extension of Particulars Section.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has now considered the question of extending the Particulars Section of the Factory and Workshops Act to those sweated trades mainly carried on in workers' homes and not hitherto included within its provisions, many of which trades were demonstrated at the recent Sweating Exhibition.

MR. GLADSTONE: Yes, Sir. I have recently issued the draft of an Order extending the requirements of Section 116 of the Factory Act to a large number of industries, including many of those in which home work is carried on. Inquiry into certain other industries is proceeding, but it has been thought best not to delay the issue of the present Order on account of those. I shall be happy to send the hon. Member a copy of the draft.

Factory Inspection.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can state the number of factories not visited during 1906, and the number not visited since 1904; and whether he will give instructions for the district totals under these headings to be printed in the chief inspector's Annual Report.

MR. GLADSTONE: The number of factories not visited during 1906 was 24,440. The number not visited since 1904 is 6,713. I do not think it would be desirable to include in the Annual Report a statement of the number of factories in each district not visited during the year or since 1904. Such figures would, as I indicated in a reply to a similar question by the hon. Member on 12th June last,† be misleading if considered without reference to the character of the works or the nature of the district. The question of dealing with the arrears which arise in particular districts receives constant attention. During the last twelve months I have made three separate increases in the inspection staff, and I have for some time past been considering the question whether a further augmentation may not be necessary.

Postal Packet Rates.

MR. HODGE (Lancashire, Gorton): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that the schedule of charges for the registration of postal packets is on a higher scale in the S.E. postal district as compared with the W.C. district; if he will inquire into, and report as to why such difference exists; if the Department only recognise one schedule of charges for registration of such, what he intends doing with the official responsible; and what steps he intends to take to return to the public the sums overcharged.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): The scale of charges for registration should, of course, be uniform throughout the United Kingdom. I am not aware that any exceptional charges have been demanded in the S.E. postal district of London. But if the hon. Member will be so good as to indicate the post office at which exceptional charges have been demanded, I will have the matter investigated.

Post Offices on Licensed Premises.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he will grant a Return giving a list of the 817 post offices, telegraph offices, and public telephone call offices, which according to the Return of May, 1906, are situated on licensed premises in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: The preparation and printing of the detailed Return for which the hon. Member asks would involve considerable expense which does not seem justified.

School Teachers and the County Council Election.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 819.

Board of Education if he is aware that Mr. Alderman Whur, one of the foundation managers of St. Peter's School, Paddington, in the course of a visit to the school last week, approached the head master with a request that he would use his influence with the parents of his scholars to obtain their votes for the Moderate candidates at the forthcoming London County Council election; and, if so, whether he will state if Mr. Whur, after making such use of his position, is to be allowed to retain it.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): My attention has not been officially called to the incidents referred to in my hon. friend's Question, and I do not see what power I have to intervene in the matter; but I may say that I should view with great regret any instance of a head teacher using his influence with parents for political purposes.

Manchester Police Stations and Children's Meals.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is aware that the Manchester Education Committee is utilising the police stations as depots for the supply of meals to school children under the Education (Provision of Meals) Act, 1906; and whether the police stations would be considered as canteens within the meaning of the Act.

MR. MCKENNA: I have no information on the matter referred to in the Question, nor would it, so far as I am aware, come within the province of the Board of Education. The Act only speaks of canteen committees, not of canteens.

Education Grants.

MR. GODDARD (Ipswich): To ask the President of the Board of Education whether he is prepared, pending the consideration of the proposed amalgamation of the existing grants for elementary education, to take any steps to remedy the inconvenience to many local education authorities which has arisen during the current financial year owing to the abandonment by the Board of Education of the quarterly system of paying the annual grants.

MR. MCKENNA: The arrangement by which certain limited sums were in some cases paid in advance was a purely temporary expedient to meet difficulties arising from the coming into operation of the Education Acts 1902 and 1903. Full notice was given to Local Education Authorities of the discontinuance of these payments, and I regret I cannot see my way to resume them, but I have under consideration the whole question of the methods by which the grants in respect of elementary education are paid with a view to ascertaining what changes can be made.

Inspectors of Welsh Education.

MR. WALROND (Devonshire, Tiverton): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education what salaries will be paid to the Secretary and Chief Inspector of Welsh education; if they are pensionable; and if they are required to devote their whole time to the public service.

MR. MCKENNA: The Answer to the first part of the paragraph is £1,200 to each. The Answer to the second and third paragraphs is in the affirmative.

Passive Resistance.

MR. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether it is the intention of the Government to introduce a Bill dealing with the questions involved in the following Amendment to the Address, which was not reached during the debate yesterday:—"That this House expresses its deep regret that in His Majesty's gracious Speech from the Throne no promise is made to remove the grievance under which many of the loyal subjects of His Majesty are made to suffer distraint or imprisonment because, for conscience sake, they cannot pay rates for denominational teaching, though this House has recorded its conviction by a large majority that such an impost is unjust and ought to be removed."

MR. MCKENNA: I propose on Tuesday to introduce a Bill which I hope will prove what would have been a satisfactory Answer to my hon. friend had he been able to move his Amendment.

*MR. CLOUGH (Yorkshire, W.R., Skipton): May I remind the right hon. Gentleman that there was a second

Amendment to the Address dealing with Education; and will the proposed Bill also deal satisfactorily with the subject embodied in that second Amendment?

MR. McKENNA: I must ask for notice of that.

The Elliot Junction Railway Accident.

MR. LAIDLAW (Renfrewshire, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he can state when the Report of the inquiry in connection with the Elliot Junction disaster will be published; and if any steps are being taken to reduce the chances of railway accidents in snow storms.

THE PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY TO THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. KEARLEY, Devonport): The Report of the Inspecting Officer who held an inquiry into this regrettable accident —by which this House lost a distinguished Member—is practically completed, but it is not proposed to publish it until after the conclusion of certain criminal proceedings which have been instituted against one of the railway servants concerned. The Board of Trade are informed that steps have already been taken to provide in future for the employment of fog signalmen during snowstorms.

Equalisation of Railway Rates.

MR. HOOPER (Dudley): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to an agreement commencing in its operation on 1st January, 1907, entered into by practically all the railway companies of England, having for its purpose the equalisation of rates and prevention of competition, but excepting from such agreement foreign traffic; and, if so, whether such an agreement will be sanctioned by the Board of Trade under the provisions of The Railway Companies Powers Act, 1864; and whether a copy of such agreement can be obtained by the Board of Trade and laid upon the Table of this House.

MR. KEARLEY: The Board of Trade are informed that the object of the arrangement referred to is to bring to an end a practice under which certain agents have allowed, out of the remuneration they received from the companies, rebates of varying amount to traders for the purpose of securing traffic. Working arrangements between companies are subject to the approval, not of the Board of Trade, but of the Railway and Canal Commission. The Board are in communication with the Railway Companies Association which represents railway companies generally with a view to obtaining information on the subject.

Liverpool Railway Servants' Hours of Labour.

MR. HUDSON (Newcastle-on-Tyne): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the number of hours worked by the engine drivers and firemen at the Walton and Brunswick Sheds, Liverpool, Midland Railway, during the months of November and December, 1906, and January, 1907, the hours worked on goods trains reaching up to a total of fifteen and even twenty hours per day, and on express passenger trains to twelve and thirteen per day, and can he say what steps he proposes to take in the matter.

MR. KEARLEY: No representations with regard to the hours of engine men at these particular sheds have been received, but if the hon. Member has any information in the nature of a complaint or representation and will communicate it, the Board of Trade will have an investigation made.

Leeds Railway Servants' Working Hours.

MR. HUDSON: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade what was the result of the inquiry made in December last into the hours worked by the drivers and firemen at the Midland Railway locomotive depot, Leeds; whether he is aware that the company mentioned continue to work the men at this depot frequently thirteen, fifteen, seventeen, and more hours per day; and what steps he now proposes to take, if any, to secure a permanent reduction of these long hours.

MR. KEARLEY: Returns obtained from the Midland Railway Company of the hours worked by the drivers and firemen in question show that the hours had in many instances reached the limits mentioned. My right hon. friend is seriously considering what action can be taken to deal with the question of the hours of railway servants generally.

Royal Commission on Tuberculosis.

MR. O'GRADY (Leeds, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury, what is the amount of public money spent on the proceedings of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, appointed in August, 1901; and whether the accounts will be submitted to Parliament in due course.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury): The expenditure on this Commission out of the Vote for Temporary Commissions up to the 31st January, 1907, has been £46,193. I understand that liabilities have also been incurred to the amount of £2,700 for stationery and printing. The audited expenditure appears year by year in the Appropriation Accounts presented to Parliament.

Scottish Education Bill.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether his proposed Education Bill for Scotland will include the provision of meals for school children; and whether he will consider the granting of powers for medical inspection and for the establishment of play centres, more stringent regulations for enforcing compulsory attendance, and the extension of the definition of cruelty, so that parents may be prosecuted who allow their children to be insufficiently clothed or verminous

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): Provision of meals will be included. The various other matters mentioned by my hon. friend are under consideration, but it is not possible as yet to give any further information in regard to the contents of the Bill.

Scottish Rights of Way.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Lord-Advocate, in view of the dissatisfaction felt in Scotland with the inaction of county councils in defending public rights of way, if he will introduce legislation giving parish councils and landward committees power to initiate such actions.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am in sympathy with the purpose of my hon. friend, but it is not possible for me to give an undertaking to introduce legislation on the subject during the present session.

Irish Labourers' Cottages.

MR. J. P. FARRELL (Longford, N.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland whether he is aware that no provisions exist in the case of labourers living in an urban district for getting cottages built in the rural district; and whether any rule can be made which will facilitate the extension of the Act of 1906 to such cases.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): The councils of urban districts are themselves empowered to provide cottages under the Housing of the Working Classes Acts. If cottages were provided by the council of a rural district for the accommodation of labourers living in an urban district, the ratepayers of the rural and not the urban district would have to bear the entire cost. No rule could, therefore, in my opinion, justly be made, such as the hon. Member suggests.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): Will the Government look into this matter with a view to giving power to the councils to deal with cases of labourers in towns who are badly housed?

MR. CHERRY: I am afraid there would be considerable difficulty in the matter, because the proceedings in rural districts are under a different Act of Parliament from those in town.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): In view of the strong feeling that something should be done in this matter, will the right hon. Gentleman see if he cannot cheapen and facilitate generally the procedure?

MR. CHERRY: I will see what can be done.

Irish Land Purchase.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the total value of land agreed to be purchased under the Act of 1903 up to date, the total amount of money already paid in respect of these agreements, and what is the cause of the delay of completing the purchases in the remaining cases; and whether this arises from the insufficiency of money raised for this purpose or of the staff engaged in the work.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The total amount of the advances applied for, including purchases by the Estates Commissioners and the Congested Districts Board, is £45,499,682, and the total amount of the advances sanctioned is £16,088,919. I gather that land purchase has proceeded with much greater rapidity than was anticipated when the Act of 1903 was passed. The Estates Commissioners are using all possible despatch in making advances. Their staff has from time to time been increased and the question of further increasing it is now under consideration. I understand that a million and a half of the last issue of land stock still remains available for advances.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Seeing there is a widespread impression that years have to elapse between the completion of an agreement and the payment of the money, with the result that many landowners are holding back from selling, will the right hon. Gentleman devise some means of quickening the procedure?

MR. BIRRELL said he was straining every nerve to secure the means to enable the system to work as rapidly as possible.

Land Purchase in County Roscommon.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the amount of land for the purchase of which agreements have been made under the Land Act of 1903 up to date, giving amount of purchase money, the the number of estates and of tenants involved in the county Roscommon, also the same particulars in regard to the purchases completed.

MR. BIRRELL: Applications have been made for advances in respect of 144 estates in county Roscommon, the number of holdings being 5,587, and the amount of the purchase money £1,424,661. The total area of the lands has not yet been ascertained. Advances have been made in respect of forty-one estates comprising 2,601 holdings with an area of 62,122 acres, the purchase money being £686,916.

Winn Estate, Glenbeigh.

MR. BOLAND (Kerry, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can state the terms on which the Winn estate at Glenbeigh, recently purchased by the Congested Districts Board, will be resold to the occupying tenants; what is the number of years' purchase of the rent; and what decision has been arrived at with respect to the sporting rights.

MR. BIRRELL: This estate is to be sold to the tenants at the price which the Congested Districts Board paid for it, namely, seventeen-and-a-half years purchase, plus £200 for the game rights. Any advances which may be made to individual tenants for the building or improvement of houses are to be added to the purchase price. The holdings are to be sold exclusive of game rights, but upon the completion of the sale the game rights are to be conveyed to a committee nominated by the tenants, and the revenue is to be applied by the committee to the purposes which they may consider most beneficial to the property. The tenants have agreed to these terms.

Morley Estate, Cavan.

MR VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can now state what is the position of the sale of the Morley estate, county Cavan.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners are at present having the circumstances of this estate investigated by two of their inspectors with the object of making an offer to purchase it under Section 6 of the Act of 1903.

Fair Rent Appeals.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state how many appeals from fair rent decisions of the Sub-Commission were pending on the 31st January, 1907; and how many appeals have been struck out with leave to re-enter since 30th September, 1906.

MR. BIRRELL: The number of appeals pending on 31st January, 1907, was 7,367. The total number struck out since 30th September, 1906, was 808, and the great majority of these were struck out with leave to re-enter.

O'Dwyer Estate, Tipperary.

MR. HOGAN (Tipperary, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been drawn to the sale of the O'Dwyer estate, county Tipperary; will he say if the evicted tenant, Patrick Hogan, has been reinstated; how many tenants are there on this estate; what is the purchase price; was it arrived at by consent; was any negotiating fee allowed; and, if so, how much and to whom was the same assigned.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners inform me that no proceedings for the sale of this estate have been instituted before them, and they have not been able to arrange for Hogan's reinstatement upon the evicted farm. In the event, however, of the Commissioners acquiring any untenanted land in the locality they will consider the question of allotting a portion of it to Hogan.

Land Act Sales.

MR. GIBBS (Bristol, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the sales under the Land Act, 1903, are being taken and payments are therefore being made according to priority of application, or whether it is the intention of the Government to devote the money at their disposal primarily to the purchase of waste lands and of estates upon which evicted tenants are to be reinstated.

MR. BIRRELL: If the hon. Member will refer to the first clause of the regulations of the Lord-Lieutenant, dated 13th February, 1906, which were laid on the Table of the House, he will find the procedure as to priority fully stated. There is no present intention of altering these regulations.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid.): Does the right hon. Gentleman intend to give priority to the cases of evicted tenants?

MR. BIRRELL asked for notice.

Thompson Estate, Clonfin.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is now able to say if the Thompson estate at Clonfin, in North Longford, will be purchased as untenanted land for distribution amongst the evicted tenants in county Longford by the Estates Commissioners.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have, at the instance of the hon. Member, communicated with the solicitors for the mortgagees of this estate, who have replied that their clients, being mortgagees of a life interest only, are not in a position to sell either to the Commissioners or to the tenants. The Commissioners have so far been unable to discover what persons, if any, are entitled to sell.

O'Brien Estate, Corglass.

MR. J. P. FARRELL: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any progress has been made by the Estates Commissioners towards securing the sale of the O'Brien estate at Cornakelly and Corglass in North Longford, which sale has now been pending for nearly seven years.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners had this estate inspected with a view to purchase last year, but found it necessary to raise certain queries on their inspector's report. They hope to be in a position shortly to make an offer to the Land Judge for the purchase of the estate. They have no information as to the length of time during which the estate may have been for sale.

Irish School Returns.

MR. BRIGG (Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will furnish the number of elementary schools in Ireland, and the number in which compulsory education exists under the powers of The Irish Education Act, 1892; and the number which are in operation under the powers of The Local Government Act (Ireland), 1898.

MR. BIRRELL: According to the latest Returns, the number of National schools in Ireland is 8,659. Of this number 1,088 are in urban districts, to which the compulsory attendance provisions of the Irish Education Act, 1892, apply; and 2,512 are in rural districts to which the compulsory attendance provisions quoted have been applied by county councils under the Local Government Act of 1898.

Belfast Death Rate.

Mr. M'KILLOP (Armagh, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a Commission is being appointed to inquire into the high death-rate in Belfast and the sanitary regulations in that city; that the names already published do not include any unofficial member of the medical profession; and whether, in view of the importance of the question, he will consider the advisability of appointing to the Commission some such representative acquainted with the laws of sanitation in Ireland.

Mr. BIRRELL: I understand that my predecessor gave the most careful consideration to the constitution of the Departmental Committee which has been appointed to inquire into the sanitary condition of Belfast, and there appears to be no sufficient reason for adding to the number. In addition to the expert knowledge possessed by the official medical members who have been appointed, the Committee will doubtless have the advantage of hearing the views of a number of eminent members of the medical profession who are fully acquainted with the sanitary condition of Belfast, and with the laws of sanitation generally.

In answer to Mr. Mooney,

Mr. BIRRELL said the Medical Officer of Health for Glasgow had been asked to report on the subject.

Mr. MOONEY: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware of any case in which an Irish Medical Officer of Health has been asked to report on the sanitary conditions of a Scottish town?

[No Answer was returned.]

Irish Teachers' Pension Fund.

Mr. MURPHY (Kerry, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can lay upon the Table of the House the Report of the actuary appointed by the Government to inquire into the condition of the Irish Teachers' Pension Fund.

Mr. RUNCIMAN: The Report of the actuary appointed by the Government, as well as the Report of the actuary appointed by the teachers, are about to be laid on the Table of the House.

The Hague Conference.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether any arrangement has been come to between the Powers who will be represented at the approaching Conference at the Hague as to the matters there to be discussed; and whether the question of disarmament will be submitted to the Conference.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER (Mr. Asquith, Fife, E) (for the Prime Minister): No final arrangement has yet been come to between the Powers as to the subjects to be discussed at the Conference, and I can only refer the hon. Member to the reply on the same subject given by the Prime Minister to my hon. friend the Member for South Bucks on the 19th inst.†

Mr. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham): When will the Conference assemble?

Sir EDWARD GREY: The actual date has not been fixed, but it will probably be in June.

New Hebrides Convention.

Mr. STAVELEY-HILL: I beg to ask the Prime Minister, whether an opportunity will be given to the House for the discussion of the terms of the New Hebrides Convention.

Mr. ASQUITH: An opportunity for discussion will be afforded on the Bill which is to be introduced this Session for amending the Pacific Islanders' Protection Act.

Lord ROBERT CECIL: May I ask when the Bill will be introduced?

Mr. ASQUITH: I cannot say.

---

† See Col. 696.

LORD ROBERT CECIL: Can the right hon. Gentleman give no indication at all?

MR. ASQUITH: None.

National Gold Reserve.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been directed to the opinion expressed on 15th January by the President of the Institute of Bankers, that he deprecated legislation on the question of the national gold reserve, but that to avoid it the banks must take the responsibility and the duty on themselves; whether he is aware that the profits of the leading banks enable them to pay dividends ranging from 15 to 20 per cent; and whether he can now see his way to take any definite steps in the important matter of the gold reserves.

MR. ASQUITH: I am aware of the facts referred to by my hon. friend, though, quite apart from the Bank of England, I believe there are banks, which may fairly be called "leading banks," whose rate of dividend is not as high as he suggests. The question of the gold reserves is one which peculiarly requires careful and cautious handling; but I am not without hope that something in the nature of a general agreement of a practical character may be arrived at among the various interests concerned.

Taxes on Food and Drink.

MR. R. DUNCAN (Lanarkshire, Govan): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can give the figures of Revenue of the United Kingdom in the year 1906, in separate items, as derived from duties on sugar, tea, tobacco, intoxicating liquors, and minor articles of bodily consumption.

MR. ASQUITH: The following are the figures for the calendar year 1906—

	£
Sugar, glucose, and saccharin	6,538,753
Tea	5,936,467
Tobacco	13,304,298
Beer	13,167,778
Spirits	21,618,570
Wine	1,232,827
Coffee, cocoa, chocolate, and chicory	506,623
Dried fruit . . .	476,306

MR. R. DUNCAN: I only wanted the figures affecting imported articles.

MR. ASQUITH: I will separate them for the hon. Member and give him the totals exclusive of the Excise.

Income-tax.

MR. MCCRAE (Edinburgh, E.): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if he can state in how many districts in London final notices for the payment of income-tax within seven days were issued prior to 16th February, whether such notices were served on all taxpayers in each district whose income-tax was unpaid at that date; and if he can state in how many districts the issue of second notices had not been completed on 16th February.

MR. ASQUITH: To answer my hon. friend's Question it would be necessary to call for returns from the several collectors, some 275 in number. To do so at the present moment would be a somewhat serious interference with the business of collection, which is still in progress; but in due course I will see that the information is obtained.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): Can the Chancellor of the Exchequer give the House an indication of the course of business next week?

MR. ASQUITH: On Monday the business will be going into Committee on the Army Estimates and moving the Speaker out of the Chair, when the Secretary for War will make his statement. On Tuesday the President of the Board of Education will, under the Ten Minutes Rule, introduce the Education Bill to which my right hon. friend has referred, and the Government propose that the remainder of the sitting on Tuesday should, if necessary, be devoted to the report of the Civil Service Supplementary Estimates. On Wednesday and Thursday we shall take the Army Estimates, Votes A and I, and Army Supplementary Estimates,

ARRESTS FOR DRUNKENNESS (IRELAND).

Return ordered, "giving the number of Arrests for Drunkenness within the Metropolitan Police District of Dublin and the Cities of Belfast, Cork, Limerick, and Waterford, from the hour of 9 p.m. to 12 midnight on Saturdays, and from 12 midnight to 8 a.m. on Sundays, and from 8 a.m. on Sunday till 2 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m., from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., from 9 p.m. to 12 midnight, from 12 midnight to 8 a.m. on Monday, between the 1st day of May, 1905, and 31st day of December, 1906, both days inclusive, the arrests being given from 8 a.m. on Sundays till 8 a.m. on Mondays; and similar Returns for the rest of Ireland from the 1st day of May, 1905, to the 31st day of December, 1906."—(*Mr. Sloan.*)

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Committee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Trade (including Agriculture and Fishing), Shipping, and Manufactures, which may, by Order of the House, be committed to such Standing Committee:—Mr. Attorney-General, Sir Frederick Cawley, Mr. Evelyn Cecil, Sir Francis Channing, Mr. Cheetham, Mr. Courthope, Mr. Cremer, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Alexander Cross, Mr. Cullinan, Mr. David Davies, Mr. Vaughan-Davies, Mr. Timothy Davies, Sir Frederick Dixon-Hartland, Mr. Duckworth, Mr. Charles Duncan, Mr. Everett, Mr. Ferens, Mr. Munro Ferguson, Sir Christopher Furness, Mr. Haddock, Colonel Harrison-Broadley, Mr. Hayden, Mr. Hooper, Mr. Idris, Mr. Joyce, Mr. Kearley, Mr. Kettle, Mr. Lane-Fox, Mr. Lloyd-George, Colonel Long, Mr. Walter Long, Mr. Bonar Law, Mr. Manfield, Mr. Mansfield, Mr. Jeremiah MacVeagh, Mr. M'Killop, Mr. Meehan, Mr. Charles Nicholson, Mr. Nicholls, Mr. Parkes, Mr. Partington, Major Renton, Mr. Thomas Richards, Sir George Robertson, Mr. John Robertson, Mr. Robinson, Sir Robert Ropner, Mr. T. W. Russell, Mr. Shackleton, Mr. Smeaton, Mr. Soames, Mr. Solicitor-General for Scotland, Sir Edward Strachey, Mr. John Talbot, Mr. Austin Taylor, Mr. Theodore Taylor, Mr. David Alfred Thomas, Mr. Verney, Mr. Walrond, Mr. Walsh, Mr. Cathcart Wason, Mr. George White, Mr. Osmond Williams, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, Mr. Wolff, and Mr. Young.

Sir William Brampton Gurdon further reported from the Committee; That they had nominated the following Members to serve on the Standing Commitee for the consideration of all Bills relating to Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure which may, by Order of the House, be committed to such Standing Committee:—The Lord-Advocate, Mr. William Abraham (Cork), Mr. Adkins, Mr. Harmood-Banner, Mr. Barnard, Mr. Barran, Mr. Beckett, Mr. Billson, Mr. Boland, Mr. Bowles, Mr. Brace, Mr. Bright, Mr. Cave, Mr. Chance, Mr. Clynes, Mr. Cobbold, Mr. Cochrane, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Herbert Craig, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. Ellis Davies, Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Clement Edwards, Mr. Evans, Mr. George Faber (York), Mr. Fletcher, Mr. Flynn, Sir Henry Fowler, Mr. Gwynne, Mr. Harwood, Mr. James Haslam, Mr. Healy, Colonel Ivor Herbert, Mr. Higham, Mr. Hodge, Mr. Bateman Hope, Sir John Jardine, Mr. Vincent Kennedy, Sir Joseph Leese, Mr. Lambton, Mr. Lehmann, Sir Francis Lowe, Mr. Arthur Lee, Mr. Maddison, Mr. Massie, Mr. Lloyd Morgan, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Napier, Mr. Nussey, Mr. Pike Pease, Mr. Pickersgill, Sir Francis Powell, Mr. Rainy, Mr. Rees, Mr. Compton Rickett, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr. Charles Roberts, Mr. Soares, Mr. Solicitor-General, Sir Benjamin Stone, Mr. John Taylor, Mr. Thornton, Sir Howard Vincent, Mr. Waldron, Mr. Joseph Walton, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Whitehead.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES) (CHAIRMEN'S PANEL).

Sir William Brampton Gurdon reported from the Committee of Selection; That they had selected the following Six Members to be the Chairmen's Panel and to serve as Chairmen of the two Standing Committees to be appointed under Standing Order No. 49:—Sir Thomas Esmonde, Mr. Laurence Hardy, Sir David Brynmor Jones, Mr. Stuart-Wortley, Mr. Eugene Wason, and Mr. James William Wilson.

Report to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

CORONERS BILL.

"To dispense with the compulsory viewing of bodies on the holding of Coroners' inquests," presented by Mr. Luke White; supported by Mr. Bramsdon, Mr. John Wilson, Mr. Cameron, Mr. Toulmin, Mr. Arther Henderson, and Mr. Summerbell; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 9th April, and to be printed. [Bill 58.]

SHOPS (No. 2) BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to Shops," presented by Sir Charles Dilke; supported by Mr. Bowerman, Mr. Timothy Davies, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Mr. McCrae, Mr. Nannetti, Mr. Alfred Scott, Mr. Seddon, Mr. Tennant, and Mr. Wedgwood; to be read a second time upon Friday, 1st March, and to be printed. [Bill 59.]

HOME WORK REGULATION BILL.

"To provide for the better Regulation of Home Industries," presented by Mr. Ramsay Macdonald; supported by Mr. Crooks, Mr. Fenwick, Mr. George Roberts, Mr. Ernest Lamb, Mr. Billson, Mr. Fiennes, Sir Gilbert Parker, and Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; to be read a second time upon Thursday next, and to be printed. [Bill 60.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. EMMOTT (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1906-7.

CLASS I.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,300, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens."

COLONEL LOCKWOOD (Essex, Epping) said that a large amount of pruning and lopping had been done to certain trees in Kensington Gardens, and he would like to ask the First Commissioner of Works whose advice he had followed in the matter, and what was the nature of the advice. He did not believe the right hon. Gentleman had taken such action on his own initiative. As one who was interested in forestry, he had looked at the cutting and lopping which had been done, and he was bound to say that he saw no reason for the public alarm and irritation with which it had been viewed. There were some very valuable trees in Kensington Gardens, and the elm trees there were magnificent, but the elm was one of those trees which were most dangerous to the public. There was no doubt there had been an accident, a young girl having been killed in the gardens by a large bough of a tree suddenly falling. He would be glad, however, to hear upon whose advice the right hon. Gentleman had acted, and also what course he intended to pursue as regards the trees in general. There was no doubt that some of the trees in Kensington Gardens were absolutely destroyed from an æsthetic point of view.

*THE CHAIRMAN explained that the Supplementary Estimates only dealt with the wages of the gardeners, etc., and did not involve the whole policy of the Office of Works in regard to the upkeep of the parks. He did not, therefore, think the right hon. Member's remarks were in order on the Estimates under consideration.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD thought that some of these wages would be used for the purpose of enabling the men to cut the trees.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.), on a point of order, asked what these labourers had to do, and for what purpose the extra remuneration was required.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the question of policy as to the parks could not be opened up on this Vote, except as regarded some new factor affecting the wages of the labourers and gangers.

*THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF WORKS (Mr. HARCOURT, Lancashire, Rossendale) said that as the question had been raised, he hoped the Chairman would allow the rule of order to be stretched a little in order to allow of this question, which was one of interest, being gone into.

MR. MORTON (Sutherland) asked whether the right hon. Gentleman could tell them on what works these gangers and labourers receiving extra remuneration were employed? Would he also tell them what the "etcetera" meant?

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said he would not continue the point he had raised. He would leave the question of the parks, and would ask what the amount was for extra wages, and whether the men so employed were skilled gardeners and skilled woodmen, or whether they were taken incidentally from the ranks of the unemployed to do work that ought to be the business of skilled gardeners.

MR. DILLON, on a point of order, said he observed that included in the Estimate was "maintenance and repairs," and he wanted to know whether the increase was for wages of labourers and gangers alone. He presumed the "etcetera" referred to the cost of maintenance and repairs.

*MR. HARCOURT: The increase is purely wages.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the questions of policy raised should not come under this Vote. He had looked at it carefully.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said he would keep to the ruling; but another point he wished to raise had reference to the provision and maintenance of a refreshment kiosk, or refreshment garden in Hyde Park. Would that be within the ruling?

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think that clearly comes within the ruling.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye) said he desired to know from the right hon. Gentleman whether the additional £2,300 required was owing to the increase of wages or to the increase of the number of men employed, because it was not clear which, and the Committee was entitled to know something about it, and also whether the labour was skilled or unskilled. If there had been an increase in the number of men employed, he would like to know whether the increase was due to relief works for the unemployed, or anything of that kind. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to satisfy them as to the reason for this increase of £2,300, and also what was due to the dispute which took place last year on the question of the new railings in Regent's Park. He moved to reduce the Vote by £100.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £2,200, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Courthope.*)

*MR. HARCOURT said he would not go at length into the question of policy relating to parks and gardens, though he knew it was a matter in which hon. Members were interested, but he desired to say a few words, not by way of defence, but of explanation. It had been rightly assumed that he had obtained good advice. He had asked the advice of selected foresters from the large estates of England, and he had requested them to give him help, though he accepted full responsibility for what he had done. Hon. Members would be glad to know, however, that he had not done it without the best expert advice.

SIR J. BRUNNER (Cheshire, Northwich): Have you had any communication with Kew Gardens?

*MR. HARCOURT said he had been in constant communication with both Kew and Edinburgh. But he might say that he had not been nearly so drastic in his treatment of Kensington Gardens as the recommendations of the foresters. He had only cut "smack smooth," as a woodman would say, one third of the trees recommended by the foresters to be felled, and he had only lopped and pollarded less than one half of the number they had suggested should be so treated. Every tree in Kensington Gardens was numbered, and its present state and future necessities were pretty well known. A register of them was kept, and they were dealt with systematically in that way. But experience in the treatment of elms had shown that a certain age, 150 years or 180 years, was the full age for lopping and pollarding, as the only thing to preserve their life. The elms on the Crown lands at Windsor had begun to fall down and disappear altogether. They were planted in the reign of William III. Most of the elms in Kensington Gardens, certainly in the Broad Walk, were planted in the reign of Queen Anne. Many of the elms in Kensington Gardens were lopped fifteen or twenty years ago. It was necessary to perform the operation of lopping and pollarding for the safety of the public, and it had been necessary to cut back into the sound wood in order to stop further decay.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the right hon. Gentleman was going at length into a subject which he had not allowed to be discussed upon this Vote. If he was to do that the same liberty must be allowed to other Members.

*MR. HARCOURT said he hoped, from what he had said, that hon. Members would be generally satisfied with the position he had taken up in regard to Kensington Gardens, and in reference to the policy to be pursued there in future. The labourers and gangers were workmen who dealt with the whole of the parks. The "etcetera" meant other people employed in the parks who could not be described as labourers and gangers—the park keepers, for instance. He had promised during the discussion on the Estimates on the 7th May, that he would raise the wages of the park labourers in London from 24s. to 27s. a week, which was the rate paid by the London County Council. In the country, he raised the wages from 21s. to 23s. That was the pledge which he had given on the Vote, and which he had now carried out. It was asked why that was not included in the estimates of last year; but the Estimates of a Public Department were prepared either in December or January. He took office, he thought, on the 12th of December, when the Estimates of his Department were practically ready; and the question of the wages of the park labourers was not brought to his attention until the Estimate had gone into the Treasury. Then he received a deputation from the park-keepers and other men, and he promised that he would deal with the question; and the whole of this sum was purely for increased wages. The increase was not at all due to any employment of the unemployed. Some of the unemployed were engaged on the making of the new frame ground in Hyde Park, and of a new road in Richmond Park, but their wages were paid by the Unemployed Central Committee.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) said he was sure they were all obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for his willingness to give such information as the rules permitted on a subject which had caused a good deal of interest. On another point he wished to know if these men were ordinary unskilled labourers.

*MR. HARCOURT: Some of them.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that 27s. instead of 24s. would be for an unskilled workman.

*MR. HARCOURT: Yes, he is unskilled before he is employed.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that what he wanted to know was, whether a similar rise in wages was going to be paid to unskilled labourers in other parts of London, such as those employed by the Post Office, and those in Government employment at Deptford and Woolwich, who were being paid rather lower wages than those employed in the parks. He assumed it was proposed to apply the same principle throughout and pay the same wages at Deptford and Woolwich to unskilled labourers.

MR. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe) said he was anxious that the public should receive more benefit from this expenditure. The use of the roads in the park was at present limited to motor-cars and carriages, and nobody else could use them for vehicles. That was altogether wrong. He did not keep a motor-car or carriage, and the only thing of that kind he ever owned was a perambulator. He would not be able to use those roads in the park if he hired a cab in the street.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is trenching upon a question of policy which does not now arise.

MR. MORTON: But surely labour is used for the roads.

*THE CHAIRMAN: If I allow such matters to be discussed there would be no question that cannot be brought in with regard to the whole policy of the parks. The line is often difficult to draw, but I draw it as fairly as I can.

MR MORTON said that apparently all they could do was to vote against the amount asked for.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member is always entitled to do that.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) supposed the unskilled labourers referred to included the park-keepers, who were mostly old soldiers in the receipt of pensions. He would like to know if the pensions were taken into account in determining the wages.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby) said the sum now being asked for was no trifling addition to the total. The original Estimate for wages was £14,310, and therefore the £2,300 now being asked for was a substantial increase. He thought they were entitled to some further explanation, because under the heading of "maintenance and repairs" were included the salaries of rangers and bailiffs, and if this money was being expended exclusively in London on the Royal Parks, it would inevitably create a great deal of dissatisfaction amongst all other labourers of that class in the employment of the Government. It was not so much the few pounds which this Estimate represented, but the serious proportion it bore to the total wages.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said it had already been pointed out that the increase in this expenditure upon wages was very large. He wished to call attention to the fact that the increase was for eight months only and not for a year. If the expenditure was to increase at this rate it would constitute an enormous increase on the original sum of £14,000. He would like to know if the right hon. Gentleman could not have these matters put a little more clearly in the estimates. The item was "For increase in the wages of gangers, labourers, etc." He supposed the gangers were foremen in receipt of adequate wages. It did not always follow that because they raised the wages of unskilled labourers they ought also to raise the wages of the foremen. He understood that the gangers received from 48s. to 53s. per week. He supposed the position was about equal to that of a head gardener, but very few head gardeners got 50s. a week. If there had also been an increase in the wages of gangers there ought to be some explanation given. With regard to the park keepers, their only duty appeared to be to walk about the parks nicely dressed, watching what was going on. Nobody wished to deal hardly with these men. They all wished to give them a fair and reasonable wage, but if they raised the wages of these men it was certain that all engaged in similar occupations should receive like treatment.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmorland, Appleby) asked if it was in order to discuss the wages of other departments on this Vote?

SIR F. BANBURY said he was not discussing the wages of other departments; he was simply pointing out what the result would be. He understood that the position of the Treasury in this matter was that of a kind of watch-dog over expenditure, and there had been a substantial increase in this particular item.

*MR. HARCOURT said he wished to draw attention first of all to the way in which the matter of the necessary increase of wages in the London parks had been treated by the Party opposite. He was pressed pretty generally last year to make what was considered a fair concession to these men. He was anxious to do so, because he wanted to put in operation the fair wages Resolution which was passed when hon. Gentlemen opposite were in office. He inquired what was the current rate—what was paid by the London County Council and the best private employers. [Cries of "Oh."] If the hon. Baronet suggested that the park labourers employed by the London County Council were overpaid, of course that raised another question. He went into the matter very carefully with the Treasury at the time. He discussed the whole bearings of the question, and its relation to the question of the wages paid to the men at the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh. The hon. Baronet had suggested that the gangers in London were receiving 48s. or 49s. a week.

SIR F. BANBURY said he asked if a ganger was a foreman and received no reply.

*MR. HARCOURT thought the hon. Baronet was taking his information from his neighbour. There were fifty foremen in London, one class of whom received 43s. a week. The second class of foremen received from 30s. to 35s. a week. Gangers had not had their maximum wage increased.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said there was not a ganger mentioned in the whole Vote. That was an invention of the Supplementary Vote.

*MR. HARCOURT said gangers were a class perfectly well known. The labourers, numbering 294, had had their wages increased 3s. a week, and that really accounted for the bulk of the whole Vote. The increase was only for nine months and amounted to £2,293. The increase for the full twelve months would be £3,006. Nearly the whole of it was being paid to labourers in London and the country. Another class of men whom he forbore to describe had received an increase of 1s. a week. In answer to the question asked by the hon. Member for Blackpool, he had to state that pensions were not taken into consideration in fixing the wages of the park keepers. The park-keepers were paid what were regarded as fair wages without considering their pensions.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN was understood to ask whether the bearing these increases would have on the demands that might be made by men at Deptford and Woolwich had been considered.

*MR. HARCOURT said he was afraid he could not answer the right hon. Gentleman. That had really nothing to do with the Office of Works. He was at the present moment considering, with a view to their increase, the wages of the men in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he might be permitted to explain why he asked the question. Towards the close of their term of office the Government of 1892–5 increased the wages of the park labourers to 24s. a week. The succeeding Government were at once faced with demands for an increase of wages to post office servants, and to the employees of the Deptford and Woolwich establishments. That was a matter germane to an increase of this kind, and he wished to know whether the Treasury had considered it. In the case to which he referred the Treasury had not considered it when the increase was granted.

*MR. HARCOURT said the matter was considered by the Treasury in March last year.

MR. MORTON expressed approval of what the right hon. Gentleman had done in raising the wages.

SIR F. BANBURY said he was much obliged to the right hon. Gentleman for his explanation. Speaking for himself he had no hesitation in saying that the London County Council was an extremely bad example to take. They were not influenced by the current rate of wages, but by what would please the people who were going to receive the wages. He sincerely hoped that other Members of the Government would not regulate their proceedings by what was done by the County Council; if they did he would be sorry for the taxpayers.

MR. COURTHOPE thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the information he had given and asked leave to withdraw the Amendment.

Motiod, by leave, withdrawn.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £11,900, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Houses of Parliament Buildings."

Mr. ASHLEY moved to reduce the vote by £100. He thanked the right hon. Gentleman for the cleaning and painting which had been going on in what was called the secretaries' room. But he did not think that any amount of painting and repairing would make it a room really fit for the purpose to which it was devoted. He believed there were about a hundred secretaries who had the use of the room. Everybody who had been in it would, he thought, agree that only seven or eight secretaries could use the room at the same time. It was perfectly ridiculous that a House in which there were 670 Members should have only such a room for private secretaries. The difficulties with which the right hon. Gentleman had to contend were no doubt to be taken into account, but he had worked wonders since he came into office, and possibly he might be able to do something in regard to the matter referred to. Perhaps it would be possible to get some extra accommodation for the private secretaries in the portion of the buildings allocated at present to the House of Lords.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £11,800 be granted for the said service."—(*Mr. Ashley.*)

Mr. DILLON said he was sure he expressed the feeling of every hon. Member that they owed a deep debt of gratitude to the right hon. Gentleman for the alteration he had made in the method of taking divisions. He had heard this matter discussed in the House for the past twenty years, and Members had entirely despaired of any improvement being made. But he must say that the wear and tear on hon. Members when divisions were being taken, especially in the summer-time, had been enormously reduced by the labours and the device of the right hon. Gentleman. The system, having now been under trial for a whole session, had proved to be a great success. But there was the old-standing grievance of the ventilation of the House. He desired, too, to recognise the interest and trouble the right hon. Gentleman had taken in that question and his endeavours to meet every complaint made by hon. Members. There was a substantial additional estimate for the improvement of the ventilation. He admitted that there had been a considerable improvement in the ventilation of the Chamber and of other parts of the House; but he still urged on the right hon. Gentleman that the condition of affairs in that respect was not yet satisfactory. The system was, in his opinion, radically bad, but he did not know whether his experts had given the right hon. Gentleman any hope that they could further improve the method of admitting the air into the House. The supply or air, no doubt, had been enormously improved and that was a great gain; but the condition of things was still quite unprecedented when compared with any other great public building in the world. The experts told the Committee of which he was a Member some years ago that the method of ventilation was quite unique inasmuch as it sent through openings at their feet and back all the air which hon. Members breathed, and it had been found that the space under the seats had never been brushed or cleaned for many years. The air blew up sometimes with great violence on the feet and necks of hon. Members who were compelled to sit in the House for a long time, and it seemed impossible for the gentlemen in charge of the ventilation below to keep the air at a uniform temperature. The result was that the temperature was allowed to fall several degrees, until hon. Members' feet became cold as lead, and hon. Members had to go into the division lobbies to warm themselves at the fires there.

*MR. HARCOURT said that the hon. Member for Blackpool had drawn attention to the insufficiency of the accommodation in the secretaries' room. He admitted that it was miserably inadequate when the amount of work which hon. Members had to transact with their secretaries during long hours was considered. But the difficulty of finding additional accommodation in an already overcrowded Gothic building which had an important street on one side and a still more important river on the other was a problem he had not yet been able to solve. He understood that the authorities of the House permitted correspondence to be carried on in the large Committee room at the north-west angle of Westminster Hall, although he quite recognised the inconvenience of the distance of that room from the House. Beyond that he could not see that any more accommodation could be provided, although he would not lose sight of the matter. The hon. Member for Blackpool had suggested that some further accommodation might be got from the House of Lords; but he was afraid that they would get no more accommodation from that House whilst occupied by its present tenants. He was extremely obliged to the hon. Member for East Mayo for his observation as to improvements which had been introduced. As to the method of ventilation to which the hon. Member referred and the draughts which came on to hon. Members' feet, he might remark that some people tolerated without very much inconvenience a current of air which to others was impossible. He, however, could hold out no hope of changing radically the scheme of ventilation of the House, but he would do what he could to mitigate the blowing of the air on the feet of hon. Members who would have rather less air than they should have under hygenic rules, and more comfort. There was a report by Dr. Gordon, which was supported by the late Sir Michael Foster, whose loss they all deplored, in which fourteen recommendations were made as to improvements in the ventilation of the House; and he was happy to say that he had carried out the whole of them except two during the late autumn recess. He did not think that the hon. Member for East Mayo alleged that the air now coming in was unwholesome. The House, lobbies, and other rooms were now cleaned daily by the vacuum cleaner, and were, in addition, thoroughly gone over at the week end. The hon. Member had complained of the sudden falls of temperature in the House; but it was extraordinary how the engineers were able to maintain an almost even temperature. There was one disastrous day last session when the temperature of the House suddenly rose. What happened was this. The temperature outside suddenly rose four degrees when all the hot water in the pipes in the House was on, and it took some time to cool the pipes. At the same time there was a fall of rain outside; therefore the humidity of the air was increased and the sensation of heat was more felt. As to the general question of ventilation, he would, during the cold weather, watch what he could do to improve the supply of air.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD wished on behalf of himself and other Members of the House, whether they were present or not, to thank the right hon. Gentleman for the way in which he looked after their comfort and convenience. He felt it his duty, however, to call attention to the large amount of this Vote, the total being £63,700. The sum represented a most appalling increase of expenditure upon Houses of Parliament Buildings during recent years. In 1898 the amount of the Vote for the whole of the premises was £34,000; in 1899 it was £33,000; in 1900 it was £35,000, and there were small increases in the next two or three years; but now they found that with the £11,900 they were now asked to grant it would total up to the figure he had mentioned, £63,700, which was about twice the average expenditure of five years ago. To his mind that was a most astounding increase, and he thought it justified hon. Members in criticising the items and asking for an explanation. They were asked, for instance, to pay an additional £590 for continuing the improvement of the ventilation arrangements of the House of Commons Chamber. He thought any hon. Member would agree that that sum was not excessive if it was spread over the whole year, but he found that in the original Vote there was a sum of £2,000 for the same purpose, so that on that object alone they would spend over £2,500. Many of them were inclined to credit the right hon. Gentleman with the best intentions, but the sum spent seemed to be excessive. Again, they were asked to vote £100 for continuing the improvements to the smokeshafts, in spite of the fact that the original estimate of £500 for that purpose had been spent. Why a total of £600 should be spent for this purpose had not, he thought, been made clear by the right hon. Gentleman. He would also call attention to the position which had arisen in regard to the Members' tea and reading rooms, for continuing the improvement of the ventilation of which another £100 was being asked for. No doubt that was a small increase, but it must be borne in mind that the amount they had already passed was £250, therefore the total worked out at £350. If expenditure of this sort was to go on, it became obvious that their accommodation would reach such an acme of perfection that not even the right hon. Gentleman would be able to improve upon it. As to the improvements in the division lobbies, £250 seemed to be a large sum to spend upon the alteration of a few doors, and the placing of hinges in a different position. He observed, moreover, that £360 was spent or was to be spent on the ventilation of the division lobbies, but although he was grateful for the changes which had been made, he could not understand why that sum should be charged unless some payment for a valuable patent was included in the charges. They were asked to vote £7,000 for improvements in the dining room, and in order to facilitate the despatch of business. They were exceedingly grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for discovering the false ceilings put in for the purpose of architectural uniformity in the rooms downstairs, and which were removed in order to give better ventilation and render the rooms less stuffy, but how £7,000 could be spent for the purposes stated he could not understand. Dealing with Item B. he found that for warming, ventilation and lighting, apart from external and internal repairs, the House paid £8,300, which was £300 more than the year before, and they now had to vote another £500. Why should they pay £800 more than they did last year for this purpose? It was an increase of 10 per cent., and was quite apart from the other expenditure upon the House of nearly £30,000 a year. The amount seemed to him to be monstrous, the actual figure being £28,800, in addition to the sum for warming, lighting and ventilating, and quite apart from the cost of the increased accommodation which the right hon. Gentleman was giving. He wished to know if anything could be done to meet the two great complaints of private Members. The first was that there was no place except the smoking room or a draughty corridor in which visitors or constituents could be received. That was a monstrous position of things. The second grievance was that there was no proper place and no facilities afforded for Members to conduct their correspondence. There was not a Member of this House who, day by day, had not to deal with a vast amount of correspondence, and in other legislative assemblies rooms with typewriters were set apart for this purpose. It was a great inconvenience that while Members had to be in attendance so many hours of the day and night they had not conveniences for replying to their numerous correspondents. Members were paid nothing and got nothing for themselves out of their work, but there might, he submitted, be some room set apart in which they could deal with business having reference to the affairs of the people with which they were bound to deal. In conclusion, he ventured to suggest to the right hon. Gentleman that during the next twelve months, unless he was in the meantime lifted into a more responsible position, which they were all certain he deserved, he would give some attention to this question which touched very nearly the comfort of many Members of the House.

MR. MORTON said he was astonished to hear from hon. Members opposite that the total amount of this Vote had doubled during last year. He would have thought that instead of £63,000 £30,000 ought to have been quite enough for the upkeep of the Parliamentary buildings. He objected to the Supplementary Vote altogether. He wanted the money spent elsewhere. He might be out of order in saying where the elsewhere was, but if any hon. Gentleman opposite suggested Sutherland they might not be far wrong. He objected to the Government spending this money extravagantly when it was wanted to carry out in other parts of the country useful and necessary works to which the Prime Minister was pledged. He also thought it was a great farce to discuss the expenditure of money when he dared say it had been spent long ago. It was not fair to the intelligence of the Committee to ask them to consider the expenditure of money which had already gone. This question of ventilation had been discussed for years—ever since this House was built—but his own opinion was that the ventilation would never be perfect owing to the situation of the House. The air intake was very near the river, and hon. Members knew perfectly well when barges containing curious cargoes passed what a difference they made to the atmosphere of the House. The money down on the Vote before the Committee for ventilation would be wasted, as many hundreds and thousands of pounds had been wasted before. The right hon. Gentleman had certainly greatly improved the process of taking divisions, but £250, if that had been spent on the alterations made for that purpose, was to his mind an extraordinary sum for such a little work. Then he did not understand the sum of £360 for ventilating the lobbies nor the £210 for providing annunciators in the dining-rooms. They were not required, and he objected to the item altogether. He supposed lockers must be provided for Members, still he thought £380 was a large sum to devote to the purpose. The next item, £7,000, required in his opinion considerable explanation—"Works and alterations to facilitate the despatch of business." Business was proceeded with very slowly last year, and they certainly did not want to provide more money for it. He noticed that the item contained provision for more accommodation, including a new dining-room. But whatever it included it required considerable explanation. There were a number of other items which he did not intend to go into at any length, and then they came to "£250—extension of the vacuum system of cleansing." The only reason for adopting that system was, in his opinion, to save money, but in this case the cleansing cost £250 more than otherwise it would have done, or had done before. One reduction had been moved and therefore he would not move another, but he would like to do away with this extravagant and extraordinary expenditure altogether. He wished the Government to understand that if the Liberal Government and the Liberal Party were to carry out their pledges to the people of the country and make the improvements they wanted to make they must have money, and if the money was squandered in the way illustrated by these Votes, they could not carry out their promises, in which case he would be exceedingly disappointed.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH (Derbyshire, W.) asked the right hon. Gentleman to refer to the principle which underlay many of these Votes. He pointed out that in the last Parliament the then Government were continually being told of the evil of Supplementary Estimates and of commencing new works under Supplementary Estimates prior to their having been discussed by the Committee. It was not easy from these Estimates, especially when compared with the original Estimates of last year, to pick out what had been done in the way of simply carrying out the works promised and sanctioned by the House and new works. There were five new sub-heads. In the old Estimates there were eleven sub-heads of new works, whilst on these Estimates there were sixteen different sections. Some of those new sections might be in respect to work referred to in the previous sections, but he desired to ask the right hon. Gentleman if he could tell the Committee how much of these works had received Parliamentary sanction. He would also like to know how much work would be definitely finished with the sums now asked for, and how many of these items were in the nature of wha was called continuous expenditure. Of course, it was perfectly easy now to criticise the proposals on which, he presumed, a large portion of the money had already been spent; but it was like shutting the door after the horse was stolen. Still, when once the expenditure had been begun, it might mean that they were involved in a future very considerable expenditure, which, possibly, might have been rather lightly entered upon by simply giving approval of the Supplementary Estimates. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would be able to assure them that this expenditure was not likely to involve a considerable future expenditure, and at all events that it would not involve an expenditure in the form of Supplementary Estimates, but in a form in which it would receive the sanction of the House before the work was done.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said that, as regarded the ventilation of the House, he honestly thought that what had been done represented almost all that could be done. The only chance which the right hon. Gentleman had in dealing with the matter was to obtain the best advice possible and act on that advice. He was not going to oppose the right hon. Gentleman's obtaining this money, and he would assist him in getting it. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had treated them exceedingly well, and had provided for the comfort of Members. He had the Reports of various Committees as to improvements of the House. There was one inquiry in 1894, under the right hon. Gentleman who now occupied the position of Home Secretary, and there was another Committee on which he himself served in 1901. They made a recommendation, in which he joined, that £30,000 should be spent on the buildings. Some of these recommendations had been carried out; some had not. It was impossible to make this old Gothic building suitable to the requirements of a number of Gentlemen who sat there morning, noon and night, and practically lived there. The building as originally planned was to be extended to the catalpa trees, but the time had not arrived for providing for Members by completing the original plans which he believed were in existence. They had knocked down walls and so altered the interior of the House that a Member of fifty years ago would really not know the place if he came into it now. He was very much inclined to think that they had gone as far as possible in that direction; but still, it was very necessary that there should be provision of new library accommodation, which at present was most deficient. So greatly had the number of volumes increased that many were stowed away in almost inaccessible places. Other very much needed accommodation was a room where Members could meet deputations of their constituents. The other day he received a deputation of woman suffragists, introduced, as the President of the Local Government Board would say, by a buxom lady. He had to drag them about from pillar to post before he could obtain a room in which to receive them. A room for the reception of deputations by Members was absolutely necessary, and it should be as close as possible to the main portion of the building. All these alterations, he was perfectly aware, would cost money, and he was ready to vote the money. He was aware, from the scientific point of view, there was a good deal to be said for and against them. They had already got a quart into the pint pot, and it was impossible to get another quart into it. Nothing could be more villainous than the accommodation for the telegraph messengers, and the police accommodation was bad. The only chance they had of dealing with this matter was to set apart on the Estimates a sum which would meet the requirements of Members and carry out the original plans by an extension of the building big enough to hold those Members.

THE CHAIRMAN said this was not the right occasion on which to make all kinds of suggestions. They were discussing the Supplementary Estimates, and he had allowed latitude of debate for the simple reason that they were very voluminous, introducing a great many subjects; but the present was not the right occasion for making all kinds of suggestions.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.) said he desired to ask a question on a point of order. They were confronted with large items of new expenditure, and he wished to know whether they were not entitled, in discussing those items, to express their views as to alternative schemes, and whether the money might be spent in other ways; if they were not, what opportunity had they of discussing those matters?

*THE CHAIRMAN said the general discussion would come on the Estimates next year. The hon. Member was entitled to observe that this money ought not to be spent on these items and had better have been spent on others, but he was not entitled to go into every kind of scheme in relation to these buildings. The opportunity for that would come on the Estimates for next year and not on the Supplementary Estimates.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) asked the Minister in charge of the Vote whether his attention had been called to the words in the Estimate, "to facilitate the despatch of business." If the Vote was for that purpose, was it not necessary for them to go into matters which related to the difficulties affecting the despatch of business in this House.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he had already decided about that. There was a well-known ruling on the point.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND said he was really seeking to ascertain the proper time for the discussion, because when the proper time came he was going to suggest that the proper solution of this question was to deal formally with the House of Lords. On the items for maintenance and repairs, external and internal repairs, and for miscellaneous charges, surely it was open to hon. Members to discuss them at large, making suggestions.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the general policy of the original Vote was not open to discussion on the Supplementary Estimates. That was the general rule. He had allowed a good deal of latitude on this occasion because, as he had said, the Supplementary Estimates were very voluminous and dealt in a great many things.

*MR. HARCOURT said he was very much inclined to agree with the warning or statement made by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for West Derbyshire as to these Supplementary Estimates. Practically the whole of the matters which had been discussed had been demanded by the House at large, and he had carried them out during the period of the year which was most convenient. If he had taken no steps at all to carry out what hon. Members asked him last year to do, and had put the items on the Estimates of this year, for discussion, the whole of the session would have expired before he could have carried out the works in the next autumn recess. It would have been a long delay, and longer, he thought, than the House would have desired. Of course, the Estimates last year were practically in shape when he took office. There were arrears to make up in improving the accommodation for the convenience of Members, and those arrears he had been endeavouring to catch up. But he would observe a more regular course next year, and he hoped not to have any Supplementary Estimates; but when he was asked for things which they wished to be carried out, he was going to say that he would put them in his Estimates, but his Estimates for 1907-8 had already been sent in. It would therefore be at least twelve or eighteen months before any new suggestion could be embodied and carried out. If the House imposed this restriction, and he thought it ought to be imposed, it would be their own restriction and would cause delay in future. A building put where an hon. Member had suggested would be of very little use. They wanted accommodation for deputations within easy distance of the lobby. Considering the great demands made, he did not think the expenditure had been at all excessive. The new Parliament seemed very much in the mood described by Lord Elcho of being not only just to others but generous to themselves. A large number of new Members had been returned and they had not learned to put up with the inconveniences which Members of former Parliaments had to submit to. A great deal of the expenditure in this Vote had been involved by the recommendation of expert Committees appointed by the House. When those Committees reported it was impossible for the First Commissioner of

Works to throw aside their recommendations and declare that the work should not be done. There was nothing more expensive than ventilating and heating works in an old building. Electric fans and expensive motors had also been put in to lessen the smoke nuisance. The additional expense on the tea room was due to the installation of a larger fan and motor which were found to be necessary to produce the ventilation required. Some hon. Members were rather shocked at the charge for improving the arrangements for taking divisions. They had to provide six new desks for the clerks, and amongst other things the alterations involved cutting through a steel floor. It was very difficult to get the job done during the Whitsuntide recess and a good deal of overtime had to be worked. The improved ventilation in the division lobbies had been a great success, and hon. Members who remembered what the condition of the division lobbies used to be in the summer months would appreciate the change. The works which had been carried out during the recess had been treated as one job, and they had cost about £7,000. Out of that sum £3,000 was for the new dining-room. That sounded a great deal of money, but he only wished hon. Members could have seen the work when it was going on. The workmen had to cut out the whole of the vaulting and put in steel girders and two pillars. The cost of work of that kind was stupendous, because it had to be done at high pressure. He hoped to be able to offer the new dining-room for the use of hon. Members in about three weeks time. An additional £500 had been spent upon the necessary linen, cutlery, glass and plate for the new dining-room. That accounted for half of the £7,000. Besides this there were improvements in connection with the smoking-room, the dining-room, additional accommodation for the staff of the Sergeant-at-Arms, increased larder accommodation and other necessary alterations.

Sir F. BANBURY said he considered the explanation given by the right hon. Gentleman as to the largeness of the Supplementary Estimate quite satisfactory. He did not see how the right hon. Gentleman could have done otherwise in this case, but personally he was not in favour of these large expenditures which were not in the original Votes. He had spoken to the right hon. Gentleman during last summer on the question of the ventilation of the House. He admitted that it was a most difficult thing to deal with the ventilation of such a Chamber in such a way as to satisfy everybody. A large sum of money was spent on the ventilation of the House, but he thought that the arrangements could be improved. In his case his feet were very cold and his head was generally very hot. He thought the reverse ought to be his experience if the House were properly ventilated. Originally in the summer the windows at the top were opened, but under the new *régime* he was sorry to say that they were never opened. Last year he called on the right hon. Gentleman and pointed out the difficulty which had arisen. The right hon. Gentleman received him with extreme courtesy and asked him not to raise the question of the opening of the windows, because it was part of his scheme that they should not be opened. Accordingly he did not raise the question last year, but he thought he was now entitled to raise it. Formerly this Chamber was one of the coolest places in London in summer, but now it was always stuffy and there was a horrible smell in it. He did not know what the scientific reason was, but the fact remained that the House was not anything like so comfortable as when the simple expedient of opening the windows to get fresh air was resorted to. He had had some experience in ventilation, and he had generally found that the expert had a beautiful scheme which cost a great deal of money, but in the majority of cases if they contented themselves with an open fireplace and an open window the ventilation was very much better than if they adopted the plans of the expert. He suggested that the right hon. Gentleman should try, especially in the hot weather, to go back to the old system of opening the windows and not giving them so much cold air from underneath. He thought the majority of the Members would like it. The new system of taking divisions had to him one drawback. The door behind the Chair was always open, and owing to that, when he returned to the House after a division, he was nearly blown out of his place. He thought the door might be shut, if not locked. He spoke not only for himself, but for a good many of the officials who had called his attention to this matter. He preferred the old method of taking divisions to that which was now followed. Formerly it was possible to converse privately with one's friends in the lobby, but now they were all mixed up, and the opportunity for conversation as to the course they would pursue after a division was almost done away with. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would do something to remedy the inconvenience caused by the door being left open. There seemed to him to be no reason why expense should be incurred in providing additional lockers. He had not had an opportunity of looking at the new dining-room, and he did not know whether £3,500 was an excessive sum or not. It seemed a very large amount for one dining-room. They ought to set an example to other people and not spend money on their own personal comforts. There was no special necessity for Members to entertain ladies downstairs. He agreed with the hon. Member for Sutherlandshire that they ought to be in their places in this House instead of dining with their friends. He would like to know whether the right hon. Gentleman had tenders for the alterations, and whether the lowest offer was accepted. There was an item of £1,150 for the supply of electric current. He presumed that this additional sum was necessitated by the autumn session, but there was nothing in the Estimate to show.

MR. SEDDON (Lancashire, Newton) thought the House might take it that the First Commissioner of Works had been assiduous in watching that the expense was kept down to well-defined and reasonable limits. On returning to the House after the recess he noticed that an alteration had been made on the notice board with respect to the lift used by Members. He noticed that the hour had been changed from five to six o'clock. That was a very desirable change from the point of view of aged Members to obviate their having to climb upstairs; but what he wanted to know was whether the attendant whose hours of work would be obviously increased had had his wages raised for the increased time he had to work, which would be five hours per week, or a reasonable half-day. Many of the attendants in the House were compelled to work over-time without extra pay. He himself objected to overtime on any account; but when it was necessary the attendants should receive extra remuneration. That also applied to the policemen, who were most attentive to their duty and assisted hon. Members to the utmost of their power.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN: This Vote relates to the works in the House, and the messengers to which the hon. Member refers are in a class altogether different.

MR. SEDDON said he thought the item under discussion came under "Miscellaneous Charges." However, knowing full well the generosity of the right hon. Gentleman the First Commissioner of Works he believed that the case of the lift attendants and the police would be remembered, and that they would receive pay for the extra work they had done.

*MR. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth) said that he had been very much alarmed when he saw a sum on the Supplementary Estimates of £8,900 for alterations in and additions to the House, and he wondered what additional buildings were contemplated. He did hope that, and he wished to make an earnest appeal to the First Commissioner of Works, in making any such addition to the Houses of Lords and Commons to adhere to the original plan of the buildings, as a new dining-room with a red roof, or a similar addition, would be, in his opinion, somewhat out of harmony with the existing style of architecture. However, since the right hon. Gentleman has given his explanation that alarm had been lessened. Had he spoken earlier in the debate he would have had more to say on the subject, but since the very clear and lucid explanation of the hon. Gentleman he felt that the House might rest assured that, after all, nothing of a very startling character was intended. But he was not quite clear whether the alterations included that made on the space at the right of the Speaker's chair. If so he wished to lodge an objection both to the alteration and the expenditure upon it. Then as regarded the new dining-room he wanted to know whether it was within the competence of the House of Commons to spend money on the new dining-room, the use of which had been conceded to them by the House of Lords, but which, he supposed, still belonged to the House of Lords. On the subject of ventilation he admitted that in many respects the ventilation had been improved; but the whole system of introducing air through the mats on the floor on which all day long hon. Members were walking with dirty boots was bad. He agreed that the Chamber was now properly cleaned every morning, but hon. Members were constantly coming in with every sort of vile mud on their boots and this mud soon dried on the mats, and by the present system of ventilation was then speedily wafted to the nostrils of hon. Members, and for the rest of the evening hon. Members were exposed to breathing fine dust of the worst possible description. He complained that draughts came up through the floor causing the feet of hon. Members to become cold and their heads hot, sometimes with disastrous results, and judging from the speeches lately made by some hon. Members they must have suffered from intensely cold feet. What was wanted was more fresh air. He was told by all the greatest authorities that nowadays the elaborate and costly systems of ventilation in hospitals had been abolished and that the ventilation and warming of the wards was now accomplished by means of open fire-places and open windows to admit the fresh air. He asked if the right hon. Gentleman would not turn his attention to a system of ventilation by which they could get in the Chamber more fresh air.

Mr. J. A. BRIGHT (Oldham) thought that the ventilation of the lobbies had been very distinctly improved, but that of the Chamber itself was very much worse. He came into the Chamber on Monday night at ten o'clock from the fresh air outside, and found that the atmosphere in the House positively smelt. He insisted that if the windows were kept open it would be a great improvement.

*Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs) asked the First Commissioner of Works whether something could not be done to improve the lighting of the Chamber. There seemed to be some quality about the light overhead which was peculiarly trying to the eyes and compelled hon. Members to drop their hats over their eyes and gave them the alternative of wearing their hats and losing their hair, or doffing their hats and losing their eyesight. This dilemma was greater now that they were deprived of the dark corner behind the Speaker's chair. He had no intention of complaining of his right hon. friend the First Commissioner of Works. Indeed signs of his beneficent activities were apparent everywhere, so that there might in future be a statue erected to him in the lobby with the inscription on the pedestal "*nobis haec otia fecit.*" Was it not possible that by means of a high voltage current electric light could be put overhead and so screened as not to beat down on hon. Members below? He believed the First Commissioner could arrange this or anything else, for it was understood he could make the atmosphere in the Chamber cool for the Government, and hot for the Opposition, or could produce a temperature of sixty degrees all round, which was admittedly best for men, women and claret. Perhaps then he could arrange for the supply of a kindly light.

Mr. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent) said he had been much struck by the suggestion of the hon. Member for Handsworth that it was not within the competence of the House of Commons to spend money on one of the rooms appropriated to the House of Lords. He understood that the whole building at Westminster was necessary to carry on the business of the nation, and if it was found that there was scarcely sufficient accommodation for Members of the House of Commons in the rooms allotted to them they might surely consider the suggestion that there were plenty of vacant rooms in another direction which might be secured. The heading of this Supplementary Estimate was "Houses of Parliament Buildings," and he took it that that included the House of Lords as well as the House of Commons. He thought it would be advisable on future occasions, for the purpose of giving hon. Members an opportunity of expressing their opinion as to the necessity of keeping up the other end of the building, to put down separate estimates for alterations on the House of Commons and on the House of Lords.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. The question of the form of the Estimate does not arise on this Vote.

MR. J. WARD said he would obey the ruling of the Chair and proceed to discuss the question of the accommodation for Members in the Chamber itself. He thought it would be desirable to remove the Bar altogether, or at any rate to move it further back, so that Members should be entitled to speak from the whole of the House and to use all the seating accommodation which it contained. As it was now the space below the Bar was declared to be outside the precincts of the House, and he thought that this subject might very well be considered by the First Commissioner of Works when dealing with the arrangements for the accommodation of Members. One other point he wished to call attention to was the fact that Members had to tramp up and down stairs unnecessarily. From the Estimates it appeared that there was to be a lift for the use of the House of Lords, but Members of this House, unless they went some distance out of their way, had no means of getting up to the different rooms except by walking. There was an immense stair well-hole which might be made use of for the purposes of a lift.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Gentleman cannot have been present when I ruled that this was not the occasion for making suggestions of this kind, but that they should come upon next year's Estimates.

MR. J. WARD thanked the Chairman, and said he was grateful to him for having allowed him to make the suggestion before he called him to order.

MR. COURTHOPE said he wished to associate himself with what had been said in regard to the efforts of the right hon. Gentleman to add to their comfort. But in regard to the new dining-room, although he agreed that it was a very fine room indeed, he could not help noticing certain alterations. For instance, he noticed that there were three windows and in regard to the centre one it looked as if a door had been made and then filled up and a window put in its place. He made inquiries and was told by the workmen that his surmise was correct, and that a door had been made and then filled up and a window put in its place. One of the workmen said he believed there had been no end of a row about it. He hoped the right hon. Gentleman would explain why the wall was pulled down, a door made and the place filled up again. With regard to operations of this kind they ought to inquire into the expenses incurred. He understood the position was that the alteration was thought to infringe upon the premises of the House of Lords and that therefore the restoration of the original state of things became necessary. Possibly the policy of the House of Lords might have been to anticipate any action which might be taken by this House, and he could only assume that it was thought the House of Lords would be abolished so soon that their consent would not be necessary. He had one other point to make in the interests of those who would be using this new dining-room. He hoped the First Commissioner would take steps to have a new swing-door in the lobby opening upon the corridor, which was very draughty at present. There was only one other matter he might mention, and he hoped that it was one which had been brought to the notice of the right hon. Gentleman, who had no doubt carried out a number of improvements with regard to the lavatory accommodation. He admitted there had been great improvements, but he regretted that he had omitted to see that there was a good supply of cold water for the Members' large lavatory. As things stood at present, one's hands got boiled by the hot water and it was impossible to get cold water.

*MR. HARCOURT said it was the fact that some new stonework was to be seen in a wall blocking up a door which had been cut through into the terrace, and the door, which was in the jurisdiction of the Lords, was cut by his orders, the plans having been approved by a Committee of the House of Lords. Perhaps the House of Lords, not being accustomed to read plans, did not realise the difference between a door and a window. When the deed was done some of the highest authorities of the other House thought their geographical position was being endangered, and he received a peremptory order to fill up the door again. He temporised and asked permission, which he undoubtedly ought to have done before. He was exceedingly humble, but ultimately the assent to open the door was finally refused. There seemed to be a feeling of fear among the Lords lest the Members of this House should get "between the wind and their nobility." He had lost his door, but had got his grievance still. He could not imagine anything more terribly unconstitutional than the suggestion of the hon. Member for Stoke that the Bar should be removed. That was a matter which could only be touched by the Speaker with the full authority of the House, and in view of his recent experience he had no wish to take up the subject. As to the request for a further lift, there were two lifts to the committee-rooms already. Hon. Members could not have it both ways—they could not press him both for luxury and economy. If there was a predominant opinion in favour of luxury he would be inclined to lean to that side. The new dining-room now belonged to the House of Commons, and so did the new committee-room, the Peers' door having been shut up so securely that no Peer could gain entrance. With regard to the lighting of the Chamber, they were obliged to have gas to get heat to extract the air. He thought it was the great quantity of light beating down on them which gave a sense of discomfort, and which, no doubt, induced many Members to maintain the old and much-respected habit of wearing their hats in the House. It should be remembered, in connection with the question which had been raised of opening the windows, that the problem of ventilation in that Chamber was very different from that presented in an ordinary room; by opening the windows, which were high up, little fresh air came down to the Members, it was carried straight up to the roof. Fresh air had to come up through the floor, and to get it out there were enormous exhaust fans. If they opened the windows the suction would never reach the floor at all, but would take away all the air which came from the windows, and hon. Members would practically sit in an airless well. With regard to the draught which came into the House from behind Mr. Speaker's Chair, it was essential that the door behind the Chair should remain open during the time a division was taking place, but he had already ordered a swing-door to be put up in the archway of the Ministers' staircase through which the draught came, and when that door was in its place he thought the hon. Baronet would have no further cause to complain. An hon. Member had complained of the lockers. They had always been seventy lockers short, and for forty years the answer to complaints had been that there was no room to put up any more. He had found that room and had disposed for ever of one of the great grievances of hon. Members. As to the cost of the new dining-room, he would remind the House that they had to do the work when and how they could, much of it while the House was sitting, and from that cause the expense had been much greater than it would have been had they been able to do it in a long recess. The item for the vacuum cleansing was not for the actual work of cleansing. The House possessed its own pipes for that purpose and the sum stated was for a large extension of the system in order that they might be able to deal with a great many more rooms which were now swept out by the cleaners.

MR. HICKS BEACH (Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury) on the question of ventilation pointed out that the period of the day when the House was most hot and stuffy was when it first sat, and Members were crowding in to question and hear the Answers of Ministers. He wished to ask the right hon. Gentleman whether it would not be possible at that time considerably to reduce the temperature of the House.

Mr. Weir (Ross and Cromarty) said he desired to take this opportunity of thanking the right hon. Gentleman for redressing several very real grievances. In the case of the Vote Office in particular, where one man had been killed by the bad air and another was pining away, he (Mr. Weir) had only to mention the matter to the right hon. Gentleman, and it was at once put right. He protested against the action of hon. Gentlemen in criticising the cost of the new dining-room which was a very great acquisition.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 57; Noes, 264. (Division List No. 8.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans-(T'r Ham
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'rd
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt Hon. Col. W.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Moore, William
Morpeth, Viscount
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

Tellers for the Ayes—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Ashley.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. Hubert
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bennett, E. N.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.

Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, NE
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.)
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nolan, Joseph
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sheehy, David
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Strachey, Sir Edward
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (South'mpt'n
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williamson, A.
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS II.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum not exceeding £1,550, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and Expenses in the Offices of the House of Commons.

*MR. MORTON said this was another of those Votes to which an addition was made. The original Vote was for £32,900, which ought to have been enough. The Vote was really £3,180, £1,630 being deducted for fees received. He would like some information about the extra expenses in the Sergeant-at-Arm's Office and in other offices; and also with regard to the extra expenses of witnesses and shorthand writers. He was aware that they had a new Minister, and he hoped that meant that they would have some reforms in the shape of a reduction of witnesses' expenses and other matters in connection with this and similar Votes. He was not going to move a reduction, because £100 would be of no good in this case, and he would like to strike the Vote out altogether as unnecessary and extravagant.

MR. STUART WORTLEY (Sheffield, Hallam) was understood to say that on all Supplementary Estimates the primary consideration was whether they ought to have them at all. In regard to this particular Supplementary Estimate, it was the imprudence of the Government, and the autumn session out of which it arose, that made it necessary. It all arose from the fact that last year the Government came before Parliament in the spring at much too late a date. Any ordinary Parliamentarian must have seen that the Government's long programme of legislation would lead to an autumn session, and therefore it ought to have been provided for in the original Estimates. A great deal of the legislative work which the House had been invited to undertake consisted of Bills originally brought forward by private Members, and then taken up by the Government. If His Majesty's Government did not foresee, while the original Estimates were still before the House, that they would take up those Bills, it must have been because they were not conscious of their own innate infirmity of purpose, of which they ought to have been conscious, and so avoided these Supplementary Estimates. It seemed to him that had they intended to rise in August, they must have known that their programme could not possibly be finished, and the result more than justified the criticism which he had found it necessary to make.

SIR F. BANBURY said that, as his right hon. friend had pointed out, members of the Government must have known that they were going to have an autumn session, for they had a larger number of Bills than could be got through within the limits of an ordinary session. It was quite evident that a little foresight in this particular case would have prevented this Supplementary Estimate. Might he point out to the hon. Member for Sutherland that if he was really keen in his desire for economy, he could always go into the lobby against the Vote. He had understood him to say that the whole Vote should be swept away. But what he wished to call attention to was the item of £1,700 for witness and other Committee expenses. The original Estimate was £500, and the revised Estimate over £1,700. That was an enormous increase on the original Estimate, and he could see no excuse for such very bad provision being made in the original Estimate. It was possibly because the number of witnesses and Committee expenses had been very large; but that was the result of a desire on the part of the Government to shelve all awkward questions by appointing Committees to consider them. What was gained by this additional expenditure of £1,200? What good had the Committees done to anybody; what advantage did anybody in the House gain by this large expenditure? As to another item for shorthand writing, the original Estimate was £1,000; the revised Estimate was £2,353—more than double. And what was the result of all the labour of these shorthand writers? He ventured to say that not three Members had ever looked at the result of all this shorthand work. They had spent something like £2,500 on these Committees, and the result had been simply nil. Nobody had gained anything by it except the shorthand writers and possibly the witnesses. He really hoped that the right hon. Gentleman who was now in charge of the Treasury, and who came as a new broom, would see that at any rate in this session no money was wasted in this way. If there were questions which required looking into, let them look into them in the House and not hand them to Committees. In the last Parliament, comparatively speaking, a very small number of questions were sent to Committee. There were then no critics like hon. Gentlemen opposite who were so severe on the late Government for referring subjects to Committee, partly on the ground of expense, and partly on the ground that the whole procedure was ludicrous and was not meant to be effective. Notwithstanding what they said when in opposition, now that they were in power, they came with revised Estimates which were more than double the original Estimates, the money having been spent on these Committees. He hoped an assurance would be given that during the present session money would not be wasted in this manner; failing that assurance, he should certainly divide against the Vote.

MR. VICTOR CAVENDISH said he would like to ask the hon Gentleman if he was able to inform the Committee whether any steps had been taken to carry out the recommendation of the Select Committee who sat last year with reference to the distribution of Parliamentary Papers. The Committee dealt with a large number of other matters, and made several recommendations which would be of considerable practical value, not only from the point of view of convenience but from the point of view of economy also. Paragraphs 42 and 49 of the Report of the Select Committee dealt with the distribution of Parliamentary Papers, and he wished to know if any action had been taken in the direction of carrying out those recommendations. As far as he was aware, there was no Parliamentary reason why the recommendations of that Committee should not be put into effect, and thereby enable a considerable reduction to be in the expenditure. Had it not been for the recommendations of that Select Committee the Supplementary Estimates they were now dealing with might have been much larger. With reference to the witnesses and other Committee expenses, the explanation in this instance was also the autumn session. It would be within the recollection of every Member of the House that a very considerable amount of work was placed upon hon. Members by the appointment of a number of Committees, and the large amount of work they had to perform. As far as he could make out, the expenditure of four Select Committees amounted to £836. That did not cover the whole of the extra amount required, the full sum being £1,700. He presumed the other expenses had been incurred in regard to private Bills. Appropriations in aid showed an increase of £1,630. There was another matter which was deserving of the attention of the Committee, and that was the payment of witnesses. This was a question which ought to be very carefully considered by the Government. The very valuable Return asked for by the Deputy-Chairman of Committees not only recorded the attendances of Members on the Select Committees, but it also gave the total of the expenses. He found that out of £836 expended by the four Select Committees, no less than £472 had been spent by one Select Committee, and that was the Committee appointed to inquire into the Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill. It seemed to him rather remarkable that so large a sum had been spent by one Committee. He did not know whether there was any particular reason why the witnesses before that Committee should have entailed so much extra cost. He noticed that the Housing of the Working Classes Amendment Bill Committee sat thirty-six times, and expended on witnesses £10 1s., whereas the Committee on the Land Values Taxation (Scotland) Bill sat only nineteen times and spent £472. He hoped such expenditure in the future would be considerably reduced.

Sir. F. Banbury.

MR. CLAUDE HAY (Shoreditch, Hoxton) said he noticed that in regard to the delivery of the Votes and Parliamentary Papers £170 had been spent in extra wages. It was no small business to deliver so large a number of Parliamentary Papers rapidly and efficiently over such an immense area. It was generally felt that hon. Members owed a debt of gratitude to the men who delivered the Parliamentary Papers, and many hon. Members would like to see them paid better. He did not know whether they were civil servants or not, or whether they were precluded from raceiving emoluments. There was another matter he desired to call attention to. He thought *Hansard* was a subject of considerable annoyance to hon. Members. They had a very notable instance of this in regard to the new gallery to the right of the Speaker's chair. He had searched *Hansard* to find what the First Commissioner of Works said on that particular subject when he introduced the various alterations which he proposed to make in regard to the House of Commons buildings, and he could not find any record of the right hon. Gentleman's speech in *Hansard*. Consequently, the House was in a great difficulty, because it found itself committed to a radical change in the arrangements of the Chamber, without having voted upon the alteration, and without having any record of that House in evidence that the First Commissioner had asked the assent of the House to such alterations.

*THE CHAIRMAN: Order, order. That Question of *Hansard* does not arise on this Vote.

MR. CLAUDE HAY asked whether this item under discussion included any sum for *Hansard*, in which event he thought the observations he was making would be in order.

*THE CHAIRMAN: No; *Hansard* does not come under this Vote.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he would like some more information in regard to the item for witnesses and other Committee expenses. He wished to obtain some idea of the amount which had been spent by the Select Committee which inquired into the conditions of service and the pay of certain classes of Post-Office servants. He thought the Committee should be made aware of the cost of that inquiry. He also asked what was spent on the Committee which inquired into the grievances of the Post-Office servants. He inquired further what was the rate paid to the shorthand writers, and what were the terms of their appointment. Were they permanently or temporarily engaged, were they subject to rules, and what arrangements were made to secure the observance by them of secrecy in the discharge of their work? He was bound to say that the shorthand writers performed their work admirably, and therefore he hoped that the scale of Government pay compared favourably with that of shorthand writers engaged by the best employers in the great business houses of the metropolis. He did not see how verbatim reports could be avoided of what came before the various Committees, because unless the members of Committees and others concerned had every detail before them it was impossible for them to do the work properly when they came to consider the bearing of the evidence in preparing their Reports. Therefore, although there were complaints in regard to the bulkiness of the volumes issued, he nevertheless believed that it was to the general advantage that this expense should be incurred. On the other hand, he must say that there were too often grave errors in the reports, not on the part of the shorthand writers, but in the reproduction of their work by the printers. Might he ask the Secretary of the Treasury to state how many shorthand writers were employed last session and how many were allocated to each Committee? He noticed that there were constant changes, and he should like to know why that was the case. Unquestionably when a shorthand writer became accustomed to the working of a Committee it was less labour to him to do his work, and greater certainty and exactness were in that way obtained. He hoped the hon. Gentleman would be able to give the Committee some information on these matters.

MR. W. T. WILSON (Lancashire, Westhoughton) asked whether better arrangements could be made for obtaining the Orders of the Day and other Papers necessary for following the business of the House. At present there was a good deal of crowding at the narrow doorway.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I think the hon. Member is asking about the expendituree of money in other ways. This is a Supplementary Estimate for money for work which has been concluded, or is arranged for and is going to be finished, and money cannot be taken for other purposes out of the Supplementary Estimate now before us.

*THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (MR. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury) said the increase in this Vote was due, as his hon. friend the Member for Sutherlandshire had pointed out, to the fact that there was an autumn session last year. Their servants had to be paid extra for their attendance at the House.

MR. MORTON: Are they not paid by the year?

*MR. RUNCIMAN said it was only in some cases that the salaries covered the whole year. [AN HON. MEMBER: Why have autumn sessions?] That was obviously a matter over which he had no control. It was entirely in the hands of the Leader of the House, who, if a question were addressed to him on the subject, would no doubt give the hon. Member a polite, and possibly a humorous, reply. Autumn sessions were held for the convenience of private Members as well as Ministers, and it was impossible to have an autumn session without having expense. It would be contrary to all precedent to put down in the Estimates at the beginning of spring a sum for an autumn session. He knew of no case in which that had ever been done. The hon. Member for the City of London had asked why there had been so many Committees. He did not know that that was a matter that rested with the Secretary to the Treasury. The reason why the Committees were appointed must be well known to every Member of the House. A great many of those Committees did most excellent work, and he hoped that in the course of the current year they would see some of the good effects which would proceed from the adoption of many of the recommendations of the Committee which sat to consider the question of the distribution of Parliamentary Papers. Mr. Speaker had done everything in his power to make, in accordance with the recommendations of that Committee, a more economical arrangement with regard to the printing and circulation of those Papers. A new contract made on the recommendation of the Committee would, he hoped, result in a considerable diminution of the expenditure under this head. He might point out that this question scarcely arose on the Supplementary Estimate now before the Committee. As a matter of fact the cost of the Committee which made the recommendations did not appear on this Vote, and the recommendations could not be carried out under any of the items on the Estimates under discussion. A question had been asked as to the expenditure of the Committee on the Land Values (Scotland) Bill. It was perfectly obvious that if witnesses were brought from Scotland the cost would be more than in the case of witnesses who had merely to take a tram or a cab to reach the House of Commons. Scotsmen who took an interest in this subject, the representatives of great municipalities, and others representing the various sides of the question, were entitled to be heard by the Committee, and it was not in the power of the Government to restrict the number. As to the amount paid to the messengers who distributed the Votes and Proceedings, he would point out to the hon. Member who asked a question on the subject that they certainly were not overworked, and he had heard of no complaint made by them. If any complaint was made he would make inquiry into it.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he wanted to know what weights they carried.

*MR. RUNCIMAN said he did not know, but if the hon. Member put a question on the Paper, it would be answered in due course. As for the charges made for shorthand writing, they were undoubtedly heavy, but they were governed by a scale settled a long time ago. If the hon. Member looked up page 923 of Volume 48 of the *Parliamentary Debates* he would find all the particulars he desired on the subject. The charges were certainly not excessive. The changes which had taken place in the Committee room were necessary for the accommodation of the shorthand writers, whose ability had never been questioned; and any information which they might have obtained in the course of their work had never leaked out.

*MR. STUART WORTLEY said that the Royal Commission on Local Taxation held some sittings in Edinburgh in 1898, and he did not see why the Select Committee should have gone over the ground again.

MR. DALZIEL (Kirkcaldy Burghs) said there was no desire on the part of the Scottish Members that the Select Committee on the Land Values Bill should sit upstairs, although he was alone in his protest against it. At the same time, he must admit he did not now object to the expense incurred, because the Committee had gained very useful information. As to the shorthand charges, he thought that they were larger than they would be if the printing were done in London instead of at Reading and elsewhere. From his own experience he knew that Members of Committees could not obtain Reports of the evidence taken three days before, because there were not a sufficient number of shorthand writers in order to get their notes written out quickly, and because the transcript had to be sent to Reading in order to be printed, and the proofs brought back to London. He insisted that the printing ought to be done in London.

Sir F. BANBURY said that the explanation that the expense was caused by the autumn session was not sufficient. Of course the hon. Gentleman was not responsible for the autumn session, but the Prime Minister and his Government were, and in his opinion the money spent on that session would have been much better in the pockets of the taxpayers. Under the circumstances he proposed to move the reduction of the Vote by £1,000. As to the printing of the reports of the Committees, he did not see why it should not be done in London and not in Reading, unless it was that it was cheaper to have it done in Reading than in London.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That a sum not exceeding £550, be granted for the said Service."—(*Sir F. Banbury.*)

Mr. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.) asked whether the shorthand writers were permanent civil servants, and he joined the hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London in asking why the printing was done at Reading instead of in London. Was the rate of wages paid in Reading the same as in London?

*Mr. RUNCIMAN said that the shorthand writers were not civil servants. Shorthand writing was done under contract, and the present holder of the contract had appeared twice at the Bar of the House.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT: Who is the contractor?

Mr. RUNCIMAN said that the contracting firm was Gurneys, of which Mr. Salter was the head. The shorthand writers were not servants of the House, but of the contractors. The printing was done at Reading, not because the rate of pay was lower, but because it was more convenient, and printing was tending to go more and more out of London.

Mr. CLAUDE HAY said he would remind the hon. Gentleman that when the present contract was entered into it was based on the rate of wages paid in London and not those paid in Reading.

Mr. DALZIEL said that of course they recognised that the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Vote was in no way responsible for the custom which had grown up of sending the printing to Reading. The result was that when Committees met at eleven o'clock they could not get on with their work because the proofs of the evidence were not available. That was not a satisfactory state of things. He had nothing to complain of in regard to the shorthand writing, because he thought the House was splendidly served by the staff of excellent reporters. What he complained of was that the printing was not done nearer to this House, because it was obviously more difficult to get the reports down to Reading and brought back to London than if the printing were done in London. He was under the impression that when the contract was made tenders were invited in the ordinary way from London firms, who competed on London rates. The question was one for the convenience of hon. Members, and the Committee would rest content with an assurance from the hon. Gentleman that he would look into the whole matter.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT thought the Committee had been rather struck by the statement that Mr. Salter, who contracted for their Committee Reports, occasionally appeared at the Bar of the House. He had asked a number of hon. friends what the meaning of that phrase was, but had not been able to obtain a satisfactory explanation, and perhaps the hon. Gentleman would be able to tell him why Mr. Salter had to appear at the Bar.

*THE CHAIRMAN: The hon. Gentleman is asking a question which does not at all arise on this Vote.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said he was only asking a question about the matter.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I have told the hon. Member that he is out of order. I heard what he asked.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 23; Noes, 206. (Division List No. 9.)

AYES.

Ashley, W. W.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashfo'd
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Houston, Robert Paterson
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlington
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Staveley-hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Walrond, Hon. Lionel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Frederick Banbury and Mr. Meysey-Thompson.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn. Sir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cornwall, Sir Edwin A.
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Cullinan, J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Jackson, R. S.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Nolan, Joseph

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipper'y, Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mptn
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (B'df'rd
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomasson, Franklin
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

4. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a supplementary sum, not exceeding £255, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1905, for the Salaries and Expenses of the Offices of the Chief Secretary in Dublin and London, and Expenses under the Inebriates Acts."

*Mr. MEYSEY-THOMPSON (Staffordshire, Handsworth) said he would like to congratulate the Chief Secretary for Ireland upon his appointment to his present post, which he would doubtless adorn with a display of the same ability and courtesy which had won him the respect of the House in another sphere of duty. He wished to ask the Chief Secretary for an explanation of the Supplementary Estimate of £200 required for the Chief Secretary's office. He understood, in fact the official explanation in the footnote on the Paper stated, that this additional £200 was to meet the excess of expenditure for travelling expenses of the Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary in consequence of the autumn session. The autumn session lasted nine weeks and that was roughly speaking £22 a week. That seemed to him to be rather a large sum, and he would like to know what was included in it. Were the travelling expenses of the Chief Secretary and his private secretary included in this, because, as no doubt the Chief Secretary was aware, no travelling expenses were allowed to the Chief Secretary between London and Dublin, although he was entitled to a certain personal allowance when travelling on Government business in Ireland. He wished, therefore, to point out that if part of this sum was charged for the travelling expenses of the Chief Secretary and his private secretary between London and Dublin, this was a claim which could not be allowed, as the Chief Secretary was not entitled to any such allowance, but if it was claimed for the travelling expenses of the Chief Secretary in Ireland, he would like to ask what on earth that had to do with the autumn session of Parliament sitting in London. A first class return fare to Dublin was £4 13s., and if this item was accurate the Under-Secretary and his subordinate must have made a good many journeys between London and Dublin. Besides, at the time the Congested Districts Board was sitting in London, and he believed that during the greater part of the period for which these expenses were charged, the Under-Secretary was, as a matter of fact, in London. It therefore resolved itself into this, that if this large sum were claimed for the travelling expenses of the Chief Secretary and his private secretary between London and Dublin, this was a claim which could not be allowed, and was against all precedence. If, on the other hand, it was claimed for the Under-Secretary's travelling expenses, the sum of £22 per week was out of all reason under the circumstances, but if the Chief Secretary were to say that this sum included the expenses of bringing witnesses over to London in connection with the Congested Districts Board, he would like to ask why the Congested Districts Board, which was doing its work very satisfactorily in Dublin, was brought over to London, and whether it was done for the convenience of the Under-Secretary, and if so, why all this extra expense was incurred without due cause. Unless the Chief Secretary could give an assurance that the expenses of the Chief Secretary were not included he would like to ask if the Treasury had given their approval of this expense being paid and whether there was any precedent for it. He would also like to ask what was the scale of allowance which was made or had been made in this case for travelling expenses. If it was true that the Chief Secretary's expenses were included it was very important that the right hon. Gentleman should state why these allowances had been made.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT asked whether the sum of £200 mentioned meant the travelling expenses of both the Chief Secretary and the Under-Secretary. Then he noted there was an item of £50 for an inebriate home in Waterford. He was quite sure there could be no real connection below these two items. It was curious that none of the Nationalist Members were present to take part in this discussion. It would have offered them a splendid opportunity of discussing what was evidently a great extravagance, and it was only to be feared that their absence showed the cloven hoof of the arrangement and understanding between them and the Government. The total amount of money granted to the Chief Secretary was £26,118, and he believed that the Chief Secretary's salary was £4,800. Surely £200 more was not wanted for travelling expenses. If it was wanted for the Assistant-Secretary, the gentleman who had become quite famous during the past year, Sir Antony MacDonell, he thought the less that gentleman was in Ireland the better. He might have a first-class ticket from Ireland to London, or even to India, where he might adorn the post he had previously occupied with so much distinction; but to Ireland, or in Ireland, no. The present Government were returned to economise. It was lavish to the verge of extravagance in voting money to its own friends. The late Chief Secretary was a conspicuous example of that. He did not blame the Government for in their probably short tenure of power lavishing money on their friends.

Mr. LEIF JONES appealed to the Chairman whether it was in order, on this item, to discuss what the hon. Member thought the general extravagance of the Government.

The DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said he was just going to call the hon. Gentleman to order. The hon. Gentleman must limit himself to these travelling expenses during the autumn session.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said he did not wish to embark upon the general question of Government extravagance; it was really far too wide a subject. A first-class ticket from London to Dublin and back again surely did not cost £200, and that being so, he begged to move that this Vote be reduced by the sum of £200.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £55, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Thomas Corbett.*)

Mr. MORTON objected to this amount entirely. He thought the amount in the original Estimate for the Irish Office was quite enough to keep it up both in Ireland and England, although Ireland was the most inefficiently and most extravagantly governed country that he knew. He was not surprised that they had to travel about in this way, because Irish Secretaries did not last long. He would like to know whether the £55 for an inebriates' home was provided for the Irish Secretaries?

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.): Are any of my predecessors in that home?

Mr. MORTON could not say; it would be a good thing, perhaps, if a good many of them were. The autumn session in any case ought not to cause any difference to the already excessive cost of government in Ireland.

MR. BIRRELL did not know that anybody was to be congratulated, particularly if he were hungry, on finding it to be his first duty on these Estimates to explain, in the dinner hour, an item like this, which, however, he admitted, required explanation. It was not accurately described. It did not refer only to the travelling expenses of the Under-Secretary during the autumn session; it referred as well to the excess of expenses generally, in Ireland, of the Chief Secretary when he was engaged in making tours over a part of Ireland in the public service. The Chief Secretary, received no allowance in respect of his travelling expenses to and from Dublin. His private secretary had an allowance to cover his expenses, but the Chief Secretary had none whatever. When the Chief Secretary was in Ireland he went touring about to see things that might be done, supposing he had the money. In respect of the expenses he incurred he was entitled to have an excess sum. This £200 represented an excess sum for the peregrinations of his predecessor—for the expenses of his tours through Ireland. There were also the travelling expenses of the Under-Secretary between London and Dublin. When the Under-Secretary was in London he was entitled to a guinea a night while in the public service; and it was undoubtedly the fact that, for reasons he need not now go into, he was obliged to be frequently in London, more especially during the autumn session, and he was entitled to travelling expenses and subsistence money to a much larger amount than normally could have been anticipated. Owing to the autumn session officials were kept at the Irish Office who, in ordinary circumstances, would have gone back to their homes in Ireland, and would not have incurred so much expense. In these circumstances, it was not surprising that a Supplementary Estimate should have to be made. He thought the account given in the printed Paper was in a sense misleading, and fully justified hon. Gentlemen opposite in their criticism. As to the charge for the inebriate homes, he did not follow the humour with reference to it; it was a statutory demand. These homes for inebriates had their claims, under the Act, upon the Irish Government, and the subject did not in any way lend itself to jest or to further inquiry. It was the first time in that House that he found himself trying to discuss these estimates, but he hoped that they would find him at all times perfectly ready to explain them as far as he could.

MR. STAVELEY-HILL (Staffordshire, Kingswinford) asked whether there were any other homes of a similar character to the one under discussion in Ireland.

MR. BIRRELL said he had no doubt there were, and the hon. Gentleman need be under no apprehension that they would be overlooked. They were statutory demands which were made in respect of them, and could not be overlooked.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) said these inebriates' homes had a statutory claim to a fixed sum per head for maintenance of inebriates committed to them.

MR. HICKS BEACH said he could find no other similar claim in the Vote at all, and it seemed to him rather an extraordinary thing to put on the Supplementary Estimate.

MR. BIRRELL said he had no doubt similar claims appeared in other accounts, only this one was put in by itself for some reason. He would, however, look into the matter, and give the hon. Gentleman an explanation.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD said the explanation given in the printed Paper was clearly misleading, because if they referred to the original Vote they would find that Heading D, to which the item obviously related, dealt with the salaries of inspectors and professional assistance in connection with asylum buildings, staff officers, clerical assistance, messengers, etc. The total amount was £3,531. It was perfectly evident that this grant, which turned out to be a contribution, at least it appeared in that way on the Vote, should be put down as a Supplementary Grant to the salaries of inspectors, staff officers, and clerical assistance. The item was evidently in the wrong place, and the Chief Secretary would agree with them that they rather required to be informed why this particular sum was now asked for. It was impossible to contend for a moment, except in a

Hibernian manner, that this particular donation to St. Patrick's Home could possibly be supplementary to somebody's salary. He thought the Chief Secretary should take the Vote back, and put it down at some time when he could really tell the Committee to which particular Vote it was supplementary. As to the sum of £200, it appeared a small amount, but inasmuch as it was additional to the usual amount allowed for this purpose, £1,500, it was an increase of 15 per cent on the ordinary charges, and he thought that was a matter for comment. They were told that it was for extra travelling expenses of the Chief Secretary and the Under-Secretary. There was not a word about the Chief Secretary in the original Estimate, and therefore it was perfectly irregular to add an amount for the Chief Secretary who was not mentioned in the Vote, and who certainly had the rather large salary of £4,500 or £4,600. He was informed that no Chief Secretary in the past had ever collected expenses for travelling. Why should Mr. Bryce, who was the Chief Secretary last year—he did not think the present Chief Secretary would have done so—have suddenly sprung £200 upon this particular Estimate? They ought to be told how and why this was. The Chief Secretary and the Under-Secretary had this £200 between them—£100 each additional for travelling expenses. It was impossible that Sir Antony MacDonnell, who was in London during the autumn session in order to see that the Town Tenants (Ireland) Bill got duly through the House, could have spent any such sum of money. It appeared to him that as regarded the two items to which he had referred the information put before the Committee was absolutely misleading, and that the statements made in the Vote were not true. He really suggested that the Chief Secretary should take the Vote back and bring it up again with a proper explanation.

*MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.) said the total original estimate was £36,218, and the Government now required the £55 because the St. Patrick's Home, Waterford, was a new institution, and the amount was taken for the expenses of the current year. That was the mare's nest which hon. Members above the gangway had found.

MR. ASHLEY thought that if the private secretary to the Chief Secretary did not receive any travelling allowance he ought to do so, because he was obliged to travel frequently from London to Dublin and back again.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said an hon. Member below the gangway had told them that the St. Patrick's Inebriates' Home was established six months ago. In that case the contention that it was on the same basis as other similar institutions entirely disappeared. This seemed to him to be part of the "larger policy." He thought the hon. and learned Member for Waterford was the real explanation of this particular grant. The Chief Secretary had stated that his predecessor used to travel about Ireland with an empty pocket and a full heart, and that therefore he was entitled to some compensation in the way of travelling expenses. He did not think that £4,800 a year was too much for the present Chief Secretary, but a salary like that ought not to be described as an empty pocket. He thought a large number of hon. Members below the gangway would be well satisfied if they enjoyed an income equal to only a small portion of £4,800 a year. It had been said that this £200 had been spent upon the Under-Secretary. He did not know whether the right hon. Gentleman was going to make a new departure in this respect. The Chief Secretary had admitted that the explanation given upon the Estimates was somewhat misleading, and under the circumstances they would be compelled to divide the Committee.

SIR F. BANBURY said the Chief Secretary had stated that the £200 which was asked for to meet the expenses for travelling of the Chief and Under-Secretaries during the autumn sittings was incorrect, and that the amount was really for the whole of the year. He did not think that explanation made the matter any better, although it did away with the idea that the money had been spent during two months, and it certainly seemed impossible that anyone could have spent £200 in two months travelling between London and Dublin.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Had he been a railway director he could have travelled for nothing.

Sir F. BANBURY said this was the first time he had seen travelling expenses on the Estimates for any Minister. He agreed that Ministers had a great deal to do, and they should be paid extremely well for their services. He objected, however, to all these extras, and he could not understand this policy on the part of a Government which came into power on the cry of economy. The Party opposite were not content with voting salaries to themselves, but they were now introducing a pernicious system of doles to Ministers in the shape of travelling expenses. He hoped the Chief Secretary would give the Committee some further explanation, and assure them that in future Chief Secretaries and other Ministers would defray their expenses out of their own money. With regard to St. Patrick's Inebriates' Home, Waterford, no doubt it was a good institution, and one which the Chief Secretary might very well subscribe to out of his own pocket, but he would like to know why the British taxpayer should be called upon to contribute towards this Home.

Mr. BIRRELL said the British taxpayer already contributed £27,000 towards similar institutions in England, £2,000 in Scotland, and, as far as he knew, this £55 was the only sum paid to institutions of this kind in Ireland.

Sir F. BANBURY said that £55 ought not to be paid by the Treasury out of the taxes for institutions of this kind in Ireland or elsewhere.

Mr. BIRRELL: They are obliged to do it under the Act.

Sir F. BANBURY said he hoped that before the Report Stage the right hon. Gentleman would make quite certain as to why this money had been spent. If the expenditure had been incurred in consequence of a new Act of Parliament the fact ought to have been shown in the Estimates. He trusted that the Committee would show its disapproval of this kind of expenditure in the division lobby.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT asked whether this grant to the St. Patrick's Inebriates' Home was an annual one, and under which Act of Parliament the grant had been made.

Mr. J. MACVEAGH: And also whether there are any vacancies in the Home.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT said he would also like to know what the salary of the permanent Under-Secretary was.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 25; Noes, 198. (Division List No. 10.)

AYES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Houston, Robert Paterson
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. T. L. Corbett and Mr. Ashley.

NOES

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Ches.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William

Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancr's, W)
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick. Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr T'dvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W.E. (Derbyshire, N.E
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy (Essex, Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John, (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs.; Leek)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomasson, Franklin
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L.) Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Waring, Walter
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question put.

The Committee divided :—Ayes, 200; Noes, 24. (Division List No. 11.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J.H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn Sir J.T (Chesh.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John

Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clark, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Sir W. J. (S.Pancras,W
Corbett,C H (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hart-Davies, T.
Hervey,W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A.Levy (Essex,Harwich
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal,E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Micklem, Nathaniel
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n)
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel,Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Seaverns, J. H.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Thomasson, Franklin
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward,John (Stoke upon Trent)
Waring, Walter
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach,Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hon.Victor C.W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dixon, Sir Daniel
Fell, Arthur
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashf'd)
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Houston, Robert Paterson
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Pease,Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon. Lionel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. T. L. Corbett and Mr. Ashley.

CLASS III.

5. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £2,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for such of the Salaries and Expenses of the Supreme Court of Judicature as are not charged on the Consolidated Fund."

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he wished to ask the Attorney-General to explain why the Department over which he presided was so misinformed as to the corrupt practices at the Worcester election, which were quite notorious, that only £30 was put down for expenses when £2,000 was required. Surely it was time that there should be some re-organisation of the Department, and a protest made against the way in which its business was conducted. Particulars should be given as to the expenditure instead of its being put into a lump sum. He wished to know how much was given to Members of the Bar, and how much was spent in the preparation of evidence, and on other items; and whether, in the opinion of the Attorney-General, there had been a careful audit of this expenditure so that the money of the tax-payers should be safe-guarded. Hon. Members who had had experience of legal proceedings knew how they were at the mercy of lawyers, and how impossible it was to effect economy in their expenses. As to the case of the Bodmin election petition, he would not trouble the Committee with the details, but it was common knowledge that corrupt practices there were not all on one side; and it was possible that, if proper steps had been taken, a good deal of public money might have been saved in connection with that inquiry. It was known that certain parties in that borough were ready to get up election petitions to provide work for the lawyers.

MR. MYER (Lambeth, N.) asked whether it was in order to discuss a political matter on this Supplementary Vote.

THE DEPUTY-CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member could not review the policy under which those proceedings were conducted. The expenditure was incurred under the provisions of the Corrupt Practices Act.

MR. CLAUDE HAY said he would not have made the remark if he had known he was out of order. What he objected to was that the whole of these expenses were lumped together, and the Committee had no real information as to how the money had been expended. That was not business. What must be insisted upon was that hon. Members should know, first of all, that those employed by the State were properly remunerated; secondly, that there was not undue extravagance; and thirdly, that the Members of certain professions did not get better remuneration than they were entitled to. Some of these election petitions were got up to make a sort of job for the legal profession, and he hoped that in future there would be fewer of them.

MR. MORTON said on the face of it there seemed to be a great waste of money in connection with this Vote. £2,000 was not the whole of it. The Vote was for £3,598, but £1,598 was to be taken from savings out of other sub-heads of the Vote. So far as they knew no extra election Judges had been appointed, and there was no apparent necessity for spending more money than had been already voted. There was a great deal of complaint outside about the unnecessary amount of money given to Judges for travelling expenses, and it seemed to him a wicked waste of public money to give this £2,000, which he supposed was largely made up of travelling expenses of Judges and others, in addition to the £319,000 already voted.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) said that the orginal vote of £319,066 included only £30 under this head of expenditure. That was obviously an inadequate sum, having regard to the fact that five election petitions had been before the Judges. In answer to the question why so small a sum as £30 was put down, he assumed that it was not contemplated that the expenses actually incurred would be so large. The estimate was made in the usual way, but the criticism which had been made would receive consideration. The charge of £3,598 however, he submitted, was not an extravagant one, considering the expenses incident to an election petition, and the Committee might take it that the Treasury, with the traditional economy of that Department, would not have allowed a larger sum than they were compelled to. A good deal of the expenditure in connection with an election petition was borne by the unsuccessful party and the country had nothing to do with it. The whole of this outlay was incident to the appointment of certain Judges to try election petitions and was necessary, having regard to the dignity which attached to such a tribunal. It involved the cost of keeping them for the time during which they might be engaged in the actual work of the petition. In some cases the inquiry lasted several days—in Yarmouth many days. At all events a considerable time was occupied. He was not aware of any item which should not be paid, and he thought there was no ground for criticism.

SIR F. BANBURY: Do the Judges simply get their expenses?

SIR JOHN WALTON: They simply get their expenses.

MR. MORTON: Are these expenses £10 or £7 10s. a day?

SIR JOHN WALTON: I think it is £7.

MR. MORTON: Well, it is too much.

SIR F. BANBURY thought the hon. and learned Gentleman had not given a sufficient explanation when he said that this expense was incurred only for the Judges and did not involve any expense for the counsel or for the trial. The only explanation was that this sum of money had been spent on the Judges, and the hon. and learned Gentleman had not given the items. He understood that the hon. and learned Member admitted that the statement of the items was not sufficiently clear, and undertook to see that on any future occasion the Estimate should be framed in a clearer manner. He was much obliged to the hon. and learned Gentleman for his statement, but it was a pity that such a course had not been adopted before, because it would have prevented the Committee being put in a difficult position and would have saved time. As to the lump sum, the total amount spent upon election petitions appeared to be £3,598. There were five election petitions, which would give the cost at about £700 apiece. That, of course, was a rough and ready way of reckoning, because one election petition might have lasted longer than another; but they were obliged to make this calculation for themselves. He wished to say a few words on the question of the sums which were paid to His Majesty's Judges.

SIR JOHN WALTON said he had omitted to state that, although some of these sums went to the Judges, there were also the expenses of the Public Prosecutor, and also, possibly, the cost of the shorthand notes. What he meant to explain was that these expenses were the expenses of the Court, and did not include the fees of counsel or expenses of that kind.

SIR F. BANBURY said he understood that these were expenses which were given first of all to the Judges, secondly, to any person who was there to assist the Judges, and thirdly, expenses incurred for providing a Court House in a locality in which a Court House did not exist. He thought that great care should be taken to see that no more money than was necessary was spent. A Judge, like any other person, could not be in more than one place at a time, and if he was trying an election petition he could not attend the assizes. Therefore, the money which would have been spent at the assizes would be saved. What they wanted to find out was whether this money had been spent in an economical way, and he thought they were justified in raising the question because, in consequence of the way in which the Estimate was framed, it was impossible for them to form any judgment whatever. In regard to this expenditure he did not say that right hon. and hon. Gentlemen opposite were worse than their predecessors, but they looked to those benches for improvement, and for an amendment of the existing order of things. He could not congratulate the Government on the manner in which they had prepared their Estimates. He thought the Committee ought to have some explanation of whether this expenditure which they were told, was chiefly upon the Judges was justifiable or not. He thought that the Secretary to the Treasury should give some explanation of the way in which the money had been spent.

MR. MYER said he was inclined to think that the hon. Gentleman was right in his contention. He had, moreover, put forward his points in a businesslike manner. He thought the hon. Baronet was right in saying that he expected better business from that side of the House. Why did not the Government give them more details instead of putting down a round sum? He hoped that in future, in such a case as this, figures would be put before them which any business man could understand.

MR. MORTON said he had no doubt the hon. Gentleman would give the best explanation he could, but obviously there were no particulars in the Estimates before the Committee, and the Vote ought not to have been taken that day unless the hon. Gentleman was prepared to furnish particulars. Up to the present moment this expenditure had been kept absolutely secret, which was not only wrong but also illegal, and upon Report he would take the opportunity of asking for full particulars of this £598, the names of the Judges to whom it was paid, and how much they received, so that he could see whether the payment was a proper one.

COLONEL LOCKWOOD said they had asked the Financial Secretary to explain this riddle which had for some little time puzzled the House. As he understood, the Judges for this work were chosen by the bench itself. If a Judge was going to try election petitions it was obvious that he could not be occupied with any of the other work for which he received a salary. The question he desired to ask was, why should a Judge who was trying election petitions be paid an extra salary, seeing that he would have been doing his regular work elsewhere if he had not been engaged on election petitions?

*MR. RUNCIMAN said he was glad to be able to give the information asked for. The total expenditure for election petitions was £3,598. The actual amount spent in each case was, £340 5s. 7d. for the Attercliffe petition, £1,273 16s. 1d. for the Bodmin petition, £699 5s. 10d. for the Maidstone petition, £498 13s. 9d. for the Worcester petition, £784 3s. 7d. for the Yarmouth petition, and on the Appleby petition, which had not come to trial, £2 2s. He pointed out that on another part of the Vote there had been a saving of £1,541, and that all the Government was now asking for was the balance of £2,000. He might say, in reply to the hon. and gallant Gentleman, that there was no extra remuneration for the Judges concerned. The whole of this money had gone in payments to clerks, travelling and other expenses, shorthand writers, and so on.

MR. CLAUDE HAY thanked the hon. Gentleman for the information he had given. The only thing that occurred to him now that it had been given was why it had not been given before. The information itself, however, was hardly satisfactory. Although the hon. Member had given some items they were only the lump sums paid in the case of each petition. They were sums that no accountant would pass in auditing a balance sheet. What the Committee desired to know, and what they would know at some time or other, was how these particular sums had been spent, whether in any particular case there had been extravagance, and whether there had been an expenditure which ought not to have occurred.

SIR F. BANBURY said it was not necessary for the hon. Gentleman to point out in an Estimate of this kind that, there having been a saving on something else, it left only £2,000 for the consideration of the Committee. He said that because the hon. Member was young in office, and because he hoped the hon. Member would see that such an explanation could have no effect. What the Government had saved was nothing to the Committee. The Committee had to consider the expenditure.

MR. MORTON submitted that the explanation of the Financial Secretary was no explanation; the hon. Gentleman had given no particulars, and therefore he should press for the particulars on Report.

Mr. MYER asked whether the hon. Gentleman could give the details.

Mr. T. L. CORBETT hoped that now the hon. Gentleman had been pressed by hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House he would not ignore them in this matter.

Mr. RUNCIMAN was understood to say that he was always glad to give information for the purpose of facilitating business. He did not pride himself on the saving that had been made on this Vote. Over nearly the whole of this expenditure the Treasury had no control at all. The only reason why he mentioned the saving was to show that the Vote they were considering was practically only £2,000. He would do his best, if the hon. Member for Sutherland cared to move for a return, to grant it.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 211; Noes, 32. (Division List, No. 12.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J.H. (Essex,R'mf'd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Brace, William
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner,Rt.Hn. Sir J.T. (Ches.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hn. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S. Pancr's,W
Corbett,C.H. (Sussex,E.Gr'st'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin (Wals'll
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey,W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever,A.Levy (Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'hs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Mond, A.
Montgommery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Napier, T. B.
Norman, Sir Henry
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien,Kendal(TipperaryMid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)

Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (EdinburghCentral
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,SirG.Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomasson, Franklin
Toulmin George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Waring, Walter
Watt,H.Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt.Hn.VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Chamberlain,Rt.Hn.J.A.(Worc.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Fell, Arthur
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence(Kent, Ashford
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'd
Hunt, Rowland
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Pease, HerbertPike(Darlington
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Rutherford, John (Lancashire)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Thornton, Percy M.
Valentia, Viscount
Walrond, Hon, Lionel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Claude Hay and Mr. Ashley.

6. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £140, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st March, 1907, for Salaries and Expenses of the Crofters' Commission."

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.) said the Commission had been an exceedingly expensive one, when they remembered that the Small Holdings Commission cost comparatively a trifling sum. He had looked into the original Vote, which was for the heavy sum of £3,735, and he should like some explanation of what the extra £140 was for. It would have been very simple to have given some hint as to the exceptional circumstances which had necessitated this increase in the expenditure. He hoped the Secretary for Scotland would be able to give them more details.

MR. COURTHOPE said that upon turning up the original Estimate he found that the amount put down for assessors was £20, and now they were being asked to provide an additional £140. Why was such a large additional sum required for this purpose.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire) said this expenditure had been necessary because the Crofters Commission was a land court with powers of revising and fixing rents. Last year they were asked by the Congested Districts Board to fix the rents on a large estate in the island of Skye. Owing to the ill-health of the chairman the Commission had to have the assistance of two assessors in the fixing of the rents on that estate. As a rule the estimate for this work was a nominal sum of £20, but owing to exceptional circumstances this year the help of two assessors had to be obtained.

MR. T. L. CORBETT said it was very unfortunate that almost every estimate should require some explanation which did not appear on the Paper. Who was the chairman of this Commission? Was it a fact that he was paid £2,000 a year, and that he had never attended a meeting of the Commission for three year? If he had not been attending the meetings surely he ought to surrender some part of his salary to meet this extra expenditure.

MR. SINCLAIR said in order that the hon. Member should not base his remarks upon a false foundation he wished to say at once that there was no foundation whatever for the statement that the chairman of this Commission had not attended a meeting for the last three years.

MR. T. L. CORBETT asked if the right hon. Gentleman would inform him who the chairman was, what salary he received, and how many meetings he had attended during the past three years?

MR. SINCLAIR said he did not know whether this question properly arose at this stage, because the information that was being asked for had nothing to do with this extra amount. If the hon. Member would put a question to him he would furnish him with the information he required. Some of the items he had alluded to would be found in the Estimates. The salary paid to Sheriff Brand compared favourably with that of other officials doing similar work in other parts of the kingdom. It was because of the ill-health of the chairman of the Commission that the assessors were employed to fix rents in this particular portion of Scotland. If there was any other point on which hon. Members desired information he would do his best to provide it.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN (Worcestershire, E.) agreed that £2,000 a year was not an excessive salary for the weighty and responsible duties of the chairman of this Commission. It was a class of work for which a man of high attainments, great impartiality, and good judgment was required—a man who would command the respect of all parties coming before his tribunal. He had no personal knowledge of the qualifications of the chairman, but he was sure he would not have been appointed unless he were a man having the requisite qualifications. It would sometimes happen that a permanent official would be absent through reasons beyond his control, and in that case it might be necessary to get others to take his place. There were three Commissioners, and perhaps the right hon Gentleman could explain why the absence of the chairman necessitated the appoint ment of two assessors. He supposed that Sheriff Brand was the legal member of the Commission, and that the other Commissioners brought technical knowledge to bear on the cases. Were the assessors lawyers employed to advise the Commissioners who were not experts in the law, or were they agricultural experts engaged to assist those already on the Commission?

MR. SINCLAIR said the other Commissioners were fully employed. One of the Commissioners was engaged in this work, and the other was fully employed elsewhere. This emergency was contemplated by the Act, because Section 17 empowered the Commissioners to employ such valuers and assessors to assist them as might be found necessary by the work. This was extra work laid upon the Commission by the fact that the Congested Districts Board purchased a large estate in Skye. It was the duty of the Commissioners to fix rents and settle crofters on the estate.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN: Were the assessors lawyers?

MR. SINCLAIR: No, they were technical valuers.

*MR. MORTON said that as this was entirely a crofting matter he wished to say a word upon it. If he had thought that there was the slightest extravagance in the matter he would at once have protested. The Crofters Commission was the one board in which in the Highlands the people had any faith whatever. The crofters were greatly indebted to Sheriff Brand, the chairman of the Commission. If work in other parts of the United Kingdom was managed as economically as that in connection with the Crofters Commission it would be better for all parties. The difficulty which sometimes arose was that the bad example shown in other parts of the United Kingdom led to extravagant demands being made even in Scotland.

Question put, and agreed to.

CLASS IV.

7. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £11,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for Grants towards the Expenditure of certain School Boards in Scotland."

MR. DILLON said the total grant for primary education in Scotland was £1,972,000. They in Ireland had been pressing the Government all through last year for some addition to the Irish Education grant. The population of Ireland was practically the same as that of Scotland, and the total grant for primary education to Ireland was £1,393,000, compared with £1,972,000 to Scotland, or nearly £600,000 more to Scotland than to Ireland which was the poorer country. And yet Scotland was about to get a supplementary grant of £11,000, whereas the Treasury turned a deaf ear for years to the claim of Ireland for further assistance to relieve the present wretched state of primary education in that country.

MR. SINCLAIR said he would explain how it was that this sum of £11,000 came to be on the Supplementary Estimates. Last year in response to representations from West Ham and other districts, the Treasury agreed to place a sum on the Estimates to assist local authorities who were obliged to levy an education rate higher than 1s. 6d. When that grant was made the Scottish Office approached the Treasury to obtain a similar grant; and they succeeded in getting it, but it was then too late for it to be placed on the regular Estimates for this year, and therefore they were obliged to have it on the Supplementary Estimates.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said that the right hon. Gentleman had explained the genesis of this Vote, but he wished to ask him one or two questions. The right hon. Gentleman must be aware that the Treasury, previous to making the grant in England to the local education authorities, appointed a Committee to inquire into the circumstances of such districts as West Ham, and to ascertain whether the high education rate was due to the extravagance of the local authorities or to local circumstances beyond their control, and a very interesting Report had been made in regard to those districts which had made a claim on the generosity of the Treasury. Had there been any such inquiry in the case of Scotland; and if so, was it concluded so that the results might be laid before the Committee? He did not wish to criticise the right hon. Gentleman as to what amount of money had been spent in anticipation of such inquiry; but if no such inquiry had been made he thought that the Scottish Office had been remiss in this matter or the Treasury had overlooked the fact. His second question was whether this grant was on the face of it a temporary grant. Before the Committee assented to the grant they ought to know what the policy of the right hon. Gentleman was to be in regard to future years.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he did not think that the policy to be pursued in future years arose on this Vote.

MR. AUSTEN CHAMBERLAIN said he bowed to the Chairman's ruling, but he submitted that it was germane to this Vote to ask whether the grant was merely a sop thrown away with no permanent result in view, or only to remove a difficulty of a temporary character which had arisen.

MR. SINCLAIR said that he was not sure that the Committee to which the right hon. Gentleman had alluded had even begun its labours. It was not the fact that extravagance had been at work in all the districts, and it was only right that Scottish school authorities with the same heavy burdens as those in England shonld receive an equal amount of relief. In reply to the second point raised by the right hon. Gentleman, the Scottish Education Department were specifically informed by the Treasury that this grant was to be a grant for one year only, and they were to receive the money as such.

SIR F. BANBURY said he understood that the Scottish Office had not made an inquiry. The question of his right hon. friend was whether the Scottish Office had made an inquiry as the English Department had done, but the Secretary for Scotland had carefully avoided making any reply on that point. What he said was that the grant was not always given where there had been extravagance, and that the same thing might take place in England. The right hon. Gentleman justified his position by the case of West Ham and by saying that West Ham was not extravagant. Nobody said that West Ham was extravagant, but the grant was given to them because they were necessitous. The grant was meant to be given not where districts were extravagant, but where they were necessitous. The Treasury therefore tried to find out whether they had been extravagant, and of course if they had been both necessitous and extravagant the matter would have to be considered. There were not many parts of Scotland which were like West Ham, but the moment that West Ham or any part of this country got anything, Scottish and Irish Members pricked up their ears and said "cannot we get some of this money for Scotland and Ireland." He thought that this assistance should be given to places where it was required. This expenditure had nothing to do with Scotland or Ireland, and the fact that West Ham had had a necessitous grant was no reason why grants should be given to Scotland in places where no necessity could be shown. The first question he asked was whether there had been an inquiry, and the second was whether there were any parts of Scotland which could be considered to be in the same condition as West Ham.

MR. SINCLAIR replied that even thriftiness did not prevent poverty in some parts of Scotland. This Vote was spread over twenty-one counties, and there were parishes in these twenty-one counties amongst whom this Vote was divided, and the justification for the assistance given to those parishes was exactly the same ground upon which the money was given in England, namely that there was a school rate of 1s. 6d. or over. He could assure the hon. Member that careful and thorough inquiry was made in every case.

*MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty) said that when he heard the suggestion of the hon. Baronet and of the late Chancellor of the Exchequer about extravagance in Scotland he could hardly sit still in his seat. If the late Chancellor of the Exchequer had kept his eyes open he would have realised long ago that there was great poverty in the schools in Scotland, not only in Lewis but in other parts of the country. He wanted to know where it was alleged that there was any extravagance, because the history of these schools was a long story of poverty. He might tell the Committee that in some schools in the Island of Lewis the amount paid for lighting, cleaning, brooms, brushes, soap, etc., was not more than 30s. a year. He should like to know if the hon. Baronet or the late Chancellor of the Exchequer would like to do the work and find the soap for that sum. The late Chancellor of the Exchequer had occupied the time of the House by talking absolute nonsense.

MR. T. L. CORBETT asked if an hon. Gentleman was entitled in accordance with Parliamentary usage to charge another Member with talking absolute nonsense.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I did not hear what the hon. Member said. In fact I do not understand what he was alluding to, but I am afraid that during the last week I have heard the phrase used on more than one occasion.

MR. WEIR said that if hon. Members would go with him to the Highlands of Scotland they would see how the schools were conducted there and would not talk of extravagance in Scottish schools. The Scottish schools were starved. They ought to have at least £25,000 instead of £11,000 for a matter of this kind.

CAPTAIN CRAIG said the only difference that he could see between Scotland and West Ham was that in Scotland inquiry was not necessary. The hon. Gentleman said inquiry was not necessary because it was common knowledge in the parishes in which it occurred. It occurred in twenty-one parishes in Scotland and necessitous cases were common knowledge. He would like to know, if that information was not obtained by means of Commissioners, from whom it was received. He certainly thought the question of whether necessity existed did arise and he knew of no place where it arose more than in Ireland. After the claims that had been made that something should be done for the schools of Ireland and as a protest against this enormous grant to Scotland he moved the reduction of the Vote by £1,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £10,000, be granted for the said Service."—(*Captain Craig.*)

MR. T. L. CORBETT said it was very rarely that he was able to support an appeal of the hon. Member for East Mayo, but on this occasion the thanks of all Irishmen of whatever Party were due to the hon. Member for the protest he had made on behalf of Ireland. The hon. Member had pointed out with great force that Ireland had, without counting this supplementary grant of £11,000 to Scotland, £600,000 a year less granted to her than was granted to Scotland, while the population was the same. Having regard to the needs of Ireland in respect to education he heartily supported the Amendment. Only recently a sum was asked for the lighting and warming of the schools in Ireland and it was denied. So long as no definite promise was given that anything more would be done for Ireland——

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was not entitled to enter into a discussion upon Ireland. He must confine himself to the Vote.

Question put.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 33; Noes, 229. (Division List No. 13.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.SirAlex.F.
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn.MichaelHugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Coates, E. Feetham(Lewisham)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashford
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Hervey, F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Hunt, Rowland
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Morpeth, Viscount
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend
Pease,HerbertPike(Darlington)
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Stanley, Hn. Arthur (Ormskirk)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Craig and Mr. T. L. Corbett.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Bennett, E. N.
Bertram, Julius
Billson, Alfred
Brace, William
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Rt.Hn.SirJ.T.(Chesh.)
Bryce, J. Annan
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,SirWm.J.(S.Pancras,W.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dillon, John
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,MajorE.Martin(Wals'll
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Gladstone, Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh.
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey,W.E.(Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, James (Derbyshire)
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordon, Jeremiah
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lea,Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, A. Levy(Essex,Harwich)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
McCallum, John M.
McCrae, George
McKenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
McKillop, W.
McMicking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel

Mond, A.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Malley, William
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Sir G.Scott(Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Scott,A.H. (Ashton-und.-Lyne)
Seaverns. J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. Leitrim, S.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thomson, W. Mitchell (Lanark)
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward,John (Stoke-upon-Trent)
Waring, Walter
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. W.(Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Original Question put, and agreed to.

And, it being after Eleven of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported upon Monday next; Committee to sit again upon Monday next.

PUBLIC PETITIONS.

Ordered, That a Select Committee be appointed, to whom shall be referred all Petitions presented to the House, with the exception of such as relate to Private Bills; and that such Committee do classify and prepare abstracts of the same, in such form and manner as shall appear to them best suited to convey to the House all requisite information respecting their contents, and do report the same from time to time to the House; and that the Reports of the Committee do set forth, in respect of each Petition, the number of signatures which are accompanied by addresses, and which are written on sheets headed in every case by the prayer of the Petition; provided that on every separate sheet after the first the prayer may be reproduced in print or by other mechanical process; and that such Committee have power to direct the printing *in extenso* of such Petitions, or of such parts of Petitions, as shall appear to require it; and that such Committee have power to report their opinion and observations thereupon to the House.

The Committee was accordingly nominated of Mr. Edward Barry, Mr. Burt, Mr. Charles Craig, Mr. Ellis Griffith, Mr. Leicester Harmsworth, Mr. Henniker Heaton, Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. M'Arthur, Mr. T. P. O'Connor, Mr. Wynford Philipps, Mr. Charles Shaw, Lord Willoughby de Eresby, Mr. Wills, and Mr. Henry Joseph Wilson.

Ordered, That three be the quorum.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

Adjourned at eleven minutes after Eleven o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Friday, 22nd February, 1907.

The House met at Twelve of the Clock.

New Writ for the County of Tyrone (North Tyrone Division), in the room of Sergeant William Huston Dodd, K.C., Judge of His Majesty's High Court of Justice in Ireland.—(*Mr. Whiteley.*)

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

London Government Scheme (Southwark Borough Market) Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

PETITIONS.

LICENSING ACTS.

Petition from Trafford Park, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Petition from Glasgow, against; to lie upon the Table.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS (BUILDING BY-LAWS).

Petition from the Institute of Sanitary Engineers, Limited, against alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

SALE OF INTOXICATING LIQUORS ON SUNDAY.

Petition from Birmingham, for alteration of Law; to lie upon the Table.

WOMEN'S ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

Petitions in favour—From Chelsea, Harpenden, North East Kent, and Sheerness; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Paper [presented 21st February] to be printed. [No. 42.]

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Copy presented, of Time Table of Examinations for the year 1907 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table.

NAVY ESTIMATES, 1906–7 (PROGRAMME OF SHIPBUILDING, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE, ETC.).

Copy presented, of Statement showing the probable effect on the Programme due to Reappropriation of Cash, Provision, etc. [by Command]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 43.]

Paper laid upon the Table by the Clerk of the House—

Bank of England. Copy of all applications made by the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England for advances to Government authorised by Parliament, from 5th January, 1906, to 5th January, 1907 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 44.]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Sunday Delivery of Letters in the Huddersfield District.

MR. HODGE (Lancashire, Gorton): To ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been drawn to the proposed extension of the area in which it is proposed to give a Sunday morning delivery of letters and other postal matter in the Huddersfield postal district; if he will make inquiries as to whether any demand was made by the residents in the proposed extended area for such facilities; and, if so, in what proportion such were to the estimated number of householders in the proposed extended area; and whether, if no such request has been made, or if such request has been made only by a small section of the residents, he will countermand any such extension of Sunday labour.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I find that from time to time applications for a Sunday delivery of letters have been received from residents in the outlying parts of Huddersfield which were formerly not served on Sundays although included within the town delivery area. No extension of the existing deliveries seems to be warranted. I may perhaps point out that any person can have his letters retained in the post office on Sundays by addressing to the postmaster a written request, duly signed, to that effect.

Mail Cart Drivers in Dublin—Conditions of Employment.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will inquire into the conditions under which the mail cart drivers are employed in Dublin; whether, owing to the recent reconstruction of the mail service, the hours of labour have been in certain cases increased; and whether he will inquire into and report upon this subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) My right hon. friend has requested me to reply to this Question. I am obtaining a Report upon the matter.

Port Regulations at Genoa.

MR. MONTGOMERY (Somersetshire, Bridgwater): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether the attention of the Foreign Office has been called to the regulations in force at the port of Genoa, which have been the subject of public protest by the masters of British, Spanish, and Norwegian ships trading on the Italian coast; and, if so, whether His Majesty's Government will make friendly representations to the Italian Government with a view to the adoption of remedial measures in the interest of British shipping.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's Government have anticipated the suggestion of the hon. Member, and they believe that the Italian Government are doing their utmost to remedy the existing state of affairs.

Cost of Pauperism.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he can state the entire cost of pauperism, including expenditure out of loans, if any, and from any other source, for the year 1835; and also the entire cost of pauperism including expenditure out of loans and from any other source, if any, for the financial year 1906.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The amount expended for the relief of the poor in England and Wales in the year ended at Lady Day, 1835, appears to have been £5,526,418. I am not able to say what was the expenditure out of loans in that year. The sum mentioned probably does not include any such expenditure. In the year ended Lady Day, 1906, the expenditure on Poor Law relief amounted to £14,218,598, exclusive of expenditure out of loans. The amount of the latter expenditure in that year cannot at present be stated, but I may mention that in the year 1904–5 it was £1,109,970.

Boarding out of Pauper Children.

MR. CORRIE GRANT (Warwickshire, Rugby): To ask the President of the Local Government Board, whether he proposes to issue a new order with reference to the boarding-out of pauper children by boards of guardians; and, if so, the probable date of issue of such order.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) I presume my hon. friend refers to the boarding out of children within the union. A new Order on this subject is in preparation and will be issued as early as practicable.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever.

SIR F. CHANNING (Northamptonshire, E.): To ask the President of the Local Government Board when the Circular and Report relating to cerebro-spinal fever will respectively be in the hands of the local sanitary authorities.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The Circular has already been sent to the local authorities. I hope that Dr.

Gordon's Report will be published early next week.

Bellaghy and Castledawson Mailcar Service.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): To ask the Postmaster-General, with reference to the contract for the mailcar service between Bellaghy and Castledawson, whether the contract terminated on the recent death of Mr. Henry Kennedy; whether tenders were invited before entering into a new contract; whether he can state on what terms the new contract is held, and for what period; and whether the postal authorities will consider, and if so, when, the competitive tenders which have been sent in.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) This contract was transferred, about three years ago, from Mr. Henry Kennedy to his son, who had, as a matter of fact, performed it for his father for some time previously. It was not then considered necessary to call for fresh tenders. The present contract is terminable on three months notice, and the question whether tenders should now be invited is under consideration.

Postal Deliveries at Dunfanaghy and Burtonport.

MR. HUGH LAW (Donegal, W.): To ask the Postmaster-General if he can see his way to arrange for a second delivery daily in the districts lying between Dunfanaghy and Burtonport, county Donegal; and if he can sanction the despatch of a mail by the train leaving Burtonport at 7 a.m.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton*): I will ascertain whether there is any change in the circumstances since the question was considered a few months ago, and will send the hon. Member a reply.

Board of Trade Returns—Causes of Unemployment.

MR. MOND (Chester): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can see his way to show in the Returns of unemployment by the Board of Trade what percentage of such unemployment is due to sickness, weather conditions, holidays, trade disputes, want of raw material or stocks, and want of employment; and what is the average length of time of unemployment of those returned as unemployed.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George*) The existing monthly Returns as to unemployment published by the Board of Trade in the *Labour Gazette* are so devised as to exclude, so far as possible, cases arising from sickness, trade disputes, or holidays. It does not appear practicable to obtain from employers and trade unions monthly information with regard to the various causes of the unemployment shown in their Returns, or as to its average duration. An Annual Report is, however, published, showing the number of persons affected by trade disputes and their duration. Certain information as to the amount of working time lost through sickness and other causes, in the engineering trade, will be found in Cd. 2337 of 1904, page 99.

MR. MOND: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he can take further steps to obtain Returns of employment and unemployment which will include a larger number of industries and workmen than is at present the case in the Board of Trade Returns.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) Most of the principal industries in the United Kingdom are represented in the statistical Returns published in the *Labour Gazette*, except agriculture and railways, and as regards agriculture a monthly article is published upon the general state of employment. The number of workpeople included in the Returns of employment and unemployment amounts to about 1,700,000, compared with about 500,000 in 1893, and continual efforts are being made to extend the information obtained from employers and trade unions.

Hours of Railway Servants.

SIR F. CHANNING: To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Select Committee on the Hours of Labour of Railway Servants, presided over by Sir Michael Hicks Beach, which reported in 1892, recommended a standard day of ten hours for most of the grades of railway servants employed in the movement of railway traffic, and that in pursuance of this recommendation, two successive Returns of excessive hours were ordered by the Board of Trade of hours worked on railways in excess of ten hours, as well as of hours worked in excess of twelve hours; and whether, having regard to the great number of instances of hours in excess of ten hours, but not in excess of twelve hours disclosed by those Returns, he will, in ordering any further Returns of excessive hours, direct that a full Return should be made of instances of hours on duty exceeding ten, so that the full number of such instances declared by the Committee of 1892 to be excessive and undesirable in the interests of the public as well as of the men should be placed before Parliament.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) My hon. friend would seem to be under a misapprehension in this matter. The Select Committee did not recommend a standard day of ten hours for most of the grades of railway servants employed in the movement of the traffic; in fact they expressed the opinion that a legal limit was impracticable. No returns of hours in excess of ten have been called for under The Regulation of Railways Act, 1889, since the Committee made its Report, but some Returns of that character were obtained before that time. The Committee recommended that "the arrangements of the companies should be so framed as to prevent the booked time of drivers, firemen, and guards from exceeding sixty-six hours per week, or twelve hours in any one day" (p. vi. of Report). The present form of Return seems well adapted to test how far this recommendation is complied with.

Transfers of Women Telegraphists to London.

MR. BOWERMAN (Deptford): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that advertisements have appeared in the Official Circular inviting women telegraphists employed in provincial offices to apply to be transferred to London; and whether he can state the reason for this action.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Additional women telegraphists will be required at some of the district and branch offices in London in connection with certain pending administrative changes in the telegraph work. As it seemed probable that the supply of qualified learners in London would not be equal to the demand, trained telegraphists from provincial offices were invited to apply for transfer.

Memorial of Veterinary Inspectors under the Department of Agriculture of Ireland

MR. J. MACVEAGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any decision has been arrived at with regard to the memorial recently presented by the veterinary inspectors under the Department of Agriculture of Ireland; and, if not, whether he can say when it is likely to be annouunced.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) This matter is still under consideration, and a decision will be arrived at as soon as possible.

Sale of the Beresford Whyte Estate, County Leitrim.

MR. DOLAN (Leitrim, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps are being taken in the Land Judge's Court with regard to the sale of the Beresford Whyte estate, Newtownmanor, county Leitrim.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The registrar of the Land Judge's Court informs me that the Estates Commissioners have lodged a request under Section 7 of the Act of 1903 for particulars of this estate with a view to considering the question of purchase. The Judge has made an order for the sale of the estate, and the abstract of title is now in course of preparation. When this has been made and approved by the Court, a survey of the estate will have to be made and the rental to be settled. These matters will occupy a considerable time, as the estate is a large one. Negotiations for sale cannot, therefore, be entered upon at present.

Sale of the Crofton Estate, County Leitrim.

MR. DOLAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what steps are being taken by the Estates Commissioners with regard to the Crofton estate, Ballinaglera, county Leitrim.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners are in communication with the owner of this estate with a view to purchase.

Sale of the Tottenham Estate, County Leitrim.

MR. DOLAN: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland how far the negotiations for the sale of the Tottenham estate, Glenfarne, county Leitrim, have proceeded; what is the cause of the delay; and what steps are being taken with regard to the evicted tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have had this estate inspected with a view to purchase, and are at present in communication with the Land Judge and the vendor's solicitors as to the provision of turbary for the tenants. When this question has been settled, the Commissioners hope to make an offer for purchase to the Land Judge and to deal with the case of the evicted tenants.

Kilkeel Rural District Council and the Retransfer of Land.

CAPTAIN CRAIG (Down, E.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the Kilkeel Rural District Council gave the prescribed notice to the owner of their intention to assign to the occupier the superfluous lands acquired by them for the purpose of the Labourers (Ireland) Acts, on which the United Irish League Hall is now being built; and, if not, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Local Government Board have ascertained from the clerk of the Kilkeel Rural District Council that the council did not give notice to the owner of their intention to reconvey to the occupier the superfluous land referred to in the Question. The reconveyance of such land to the person from whom it was acquired is a matter which is not subject to the control of the Local Government Board.

Inspector of Irish Schools.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether there is any rule of the Board of National Education which authorises an inspector to make his annual inspection of a school at irregular intervals or without notice to the manager and teacher of such school; and, if so, can he state the date of such rule, and whether it has received his sanction.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) Inspectors are required to give notice of their intention to hold a formal inspection, which, in the case of an unsatisfactory school, may be made annually or oftener as they may think desirable. They are not required to give notice of their ordinary visits to schools.

Marine Works at Falchorrib, County Donegal.

MR. HUGH LAW: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when the works proposed to be carried out at Falchorrib, county Donegal, under the Marine Works Act, are to be commenced.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Irish Government have communicated to the Donegal County Council the terms upon which they are prepared to make a grant under the Marine Works Act for harbour improvements at Falchorrib. It is understood that the council were to consider the matter at their meeting yesterday, but the result has not yet been communicated to Government.

Hours of Work at the War Office.

MR. HIGHAM (Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby): To ask the Secretary of State for War what are the hours of work observed in the offices of his Department; whether they vary in different grades; and, if so, will he state for each grade the number of persons employed, the daily time of commencing and leaving off work, the time allowed for lunch and tea, the number of days' holidays allowed in the year; whether there is any system of booking in and out so that a correct record of the hours of attendance may be kept; and whether the time lost by late attendances and absences are deducted from the time allowed for holidays.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The ordinary hours of work are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., but every official is considered liable for such additional attendances as the public service may, and frequently does, demand. No time for lunch or tea is officially recognised. Arrangements have been made under which these meals can be obtained in the office. Ordinary leave varies for the civilian officials, according to rank and length of service, from fourteen week-days to forty-eight week-days annually. All days of absence are, except in cases of sickness, deducted from such leave. The military officers have the usual staff leave of sixty-one days allowed by the Royal Warrant. Attendance books are scrupulously kept in every branch.

MARRIAGE WITH A DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*SIR BRAMPTON GURDON (Norfolk, N.) in moving the Second Reading, said it was just six years ago that he had the honour of introducing this Bill, when its supporters obtained the largest majority ever secured for it; and he hoped again it would be sent up to the House of Lords with the seal of a very large majority behind it. Some had hoped that the subject would be taken up by the Government, but on the whole non-party Bills were perhaps best left in the hands of unofficial Members. It was now rather the fashion to run down the private Member, but after all, he was simply a Member of Parliament without a salary, and he did not see why derision should be poured upon his efforts. He thought it was very desirable that there should be Members who did not require office, and who yet were anxious to serve their country without fee or reward. The time at the disposal of private Members had been so very much curtailed of late years that it had become very difficult to get Bills through the House. Under the new procedure rules there were only two days left for the three stages through which Bills of this kind had to pass. If he put this measure down immediately after Whitsuntide it was true he would have first place for a while, but other Bills which had passed through Grand Committee would take precedence. It was therefore absolutely necessary, under the present rules of the House, that this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee on Law. Last year a great evil was remedied by the passing of the Colonial Marriages Bill, but that was a law for the rich rather than the poor, inasmuch as a rich man who wanted to marry his deceased wife's sister could establish himself in the Colonies and there legally marry her, a course which was obviously not practicable for the poor. When he was in New York he met the son of an old Conservative Dean of Norwich, who had settled in New York because he wished to live as the lawful husband of his deceased wife's sister. That course was impossible for poor people to take under similar circumstances. He would like to read to the House a few words used by Cardinal Newman on this question. He said—

> "If he looked upon this question as one affecting the rich, he should perhaps think the marriages were inexpedient; but if in the interests of the poor he thought they were expedient."

The passing of the Colonial Marriages Bill was an additional reason why they should extend the system to the United Kingdom. There could not be two standards of morality in the British Empire. What was morally wrong in London must be morally wrong in Montreal or Toronto, and what was morally right in the Colonies must be morally right in the United Kingdom. As this was a new Parliament perhaps he might be pardoned if he gave a short history of this question. Up to the time of Henry VIII. marriages within certain degrees of affinity were prohibited by the Church, but dispensation was granted very freely by the authority of the Pope. That disposed at once of the arguments about immorality and religion. During the reign of Henry VIII. an Act was passed, not in the name of religion or morality, but for personal reasons, which enacted—

> "That all and every such marriages, as within the Church of England shall be contracted between lawful persons, as by this Act we declare all marriages to be lawful that be not prohibited by God's law, shall be by the authority of this present Parliament deemed, judged, and taken to be lawful, good, just, and indisputable. And that no prohibitions, God's law excepted, shall impeach any marriage without the Levitical degrees."

After that marriage within the prohibited degrees only was voidable, and validity could only be questioned if the marriage was pronounced null and void by a competent ecclesiastical tribunal within the lifetime of both father and mother. That law continued until seventy years ago. Then came Lord Lyndhurst's Act of 1835, and that was a passage in our history which we could not look back upon without shame. The head of a certain noble family married two sisters, and had a son by the second. If the legitimacy of that son had been impugned during the lifetime of the father and mother, the marriage would have been declared null and void by the Ecclesiastical Courts, and the title would have gone in another direction. At the instance of the interested parties Lord Lyndhurst introduced his Bill, and a certain amount of opposition to it arose in another place. Finally, by an arrangement with the Bishops, the Bill passed through the House of Lords in the form that all past marriages should be declared valid, whilst all future marriages of this kind were prohibited. The Liberal Party in the Commons protested against this clause and struck it out, and Sir William Follett, who was in charge of the Bill, declared that he could not be responsible for the measure if that clause was struck out. At that time there were a good many Members of Parliament who had married their deceased wife's sister, and therefore they were anxious to secure their own position. Late in September the clause was reinstated, and the Bill was allowed to pass in the form in which the law stood at the present time. Consequently all such marriages up to that time, including that of the particular nobleman to whom he had alluded, were made valid and all such marriages in the future were made invalid. There was a pledge given at the time of the passing of Lord Lyndhurst's Act that the limitation should be remedied as soon as possible, but the pledge had never been carried out. He would like to say a few words about the prohibited degrees. There was a table in the Church Prayer Book which no doubt they had all read. That table was issued in 1853 by Archbisop Parker, who recommended that it should be posted on all church doors throughout the kingdom. That table had never been confirmed by the Synod of the Church. It did not appear in any of the old Prayer Books, and it was not included in the index of the present Prayer Book. The only place where it was indexed was in the copy in the House of Commons Library where it had been inserted in the index in pencil in the handwriting of an opponent of this Bill. Since that time incessant efforts had been made to remove this anomaly, and a Bill to accomplish this object had passed both Houses, but never simultaneously. It had passed through the House of Commons over and over again, and there had been a constantly growing feeling in favour of it both in this House and in the country. Of course it had been rejected in the House of Lords, but the Upper Chamber gradually came to the view of this House, and in 1882 it was rejected by only four votes. In 1883 the Second Reading was passed in the Lords by seven votes, and it was rejected on the Third Reading by five votes. In 1896 the Bill was again passed by the Lords by a considerable majority in a House much larger than the one which had adjudicated upon the Education Bill, but when it came down to the House of Commons it was blocked. Since that time repeated majorities in this House had asserted themselves in favour of the Bill. Since he had had the honour of introducing this measure it had reached the Second Reading twice, and on one occasion it encountered obstruction so gross that they could only look back upon it with shame. Consequently it had not reached the Lords again. This was the eighth Parliament in which there had been a majority in favour of the Bill, and if hon. Members wished to see the strongest argument in favour of the Bill he did not think they could do better than read the report of the Royal Commission on this subject which sat in 1847, from which he would quote one paragraph—

> "The feeling against these marriages is in a great measure founded rather on a vague and

> misinformed assumption that they are prohibited by God's word than on a mature examination either of the Scriptures or the law of the Church."

He had already quoted the opinion of the Roman Catholic body, and he could also give the highest Rabbinical authority in favour of his Bill. So strong was the conviction amongst the Jews in favour of these marriages that it was the practice to allow a man who had children by his first wife to marry his deceased wife's sister earlier after the death of his wife than if he wished to marry another woman. Hon. Members would understand that as he had been fortunate enough to get this opportunity, he had been obliged at once to present the Bill which had been put into his hands, because he should not have been treating the House with respect if he had not had it printed immediately. He had endeavoured to follow the lines of the Bill passed by the House of Lords eleven years ago. The Bishops had represented that a clergyman in one parish might refuse to solemnise such marriages whilst the clergyman in another parish might consent. It was represented that in this way a certain amount of want of discipline would be infused into a Church which was not remarkable for discipline, and in deference to that opinion a provision to meet that case had been introduced. If a man contracting such a marriage wished to be married by a clergyman, he would have to go to the registrar. At the present time they were obliged to register the birth of a child or the death of any person, but marriages had always been exempt from registration. He thought it would be much better if all these marriages had to be registered, and that would be the case if this Bill passed. The second clause had for its object the saving of existing rights and interests. It seemed an extraordinary thing that a marriage of this kind which was not a marriage could be annulled, but he had been informed that there were cases where decrees of nullity had been made against marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The latter part of the clause had been inserted in deference to the opinion of the late Solicitor-General. He asked the House to pass the Bill in the interest of morality, because under the present law if an unscrupulous man succeeded in marrying his deceased wife's sister, he could afterwards desert her without incurring the legal consequences which otherwise would attach to his conduct. He asked them to pass the Bill in the interest of fairness, because it was grossly unjust that a deceased wife's sister should be considered so near a relation as to be within the prohibited degrees of marriage, and yet for the purposes of the succession duty should be held to be a complete stranger. He asked them to pass the Bill in order to remove a great injustice from all parties, but one which weighed more especially on the poor, and had been for many years a blot on the law of this country.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) said he offered no apology for seconding the Motion, and thus connecting not only himself but the majority of those with whom he acted with the desire to see this question finally settled. When one looked into the history of this question, the more one was surprised that Parliament had not long ago removed it from the stage of controversy. As the mover of the Bill had said, it was very difficult to find arguments against the proposal. He would like to bring to the notice of the House very briefly the way in which the present law operated against one great section of the community. It appeared to him that the present position was one distinctly against the working classes. The position had been so ably stated by one of the most respected Members who sat above the gangway on the Opposition side of the House that he could not do better than quote the statement. One of the Members for Sheffield had put it in the following way—

> "Can there be a more unhappy and humiliating state of things than that which is thus presented to us. You not only have a law which is continually evaded; you not only have a law which leads to perjury and immorality; but you have a law which is so little in accordance with the feelings of the people, and with the natural affections, and so inefficient in preventing those connections, that thousands and thousands who are placed under daily and unavoidable temptation, and yet debarred from marriage, are living, and by the law are almost compelled to live, in a state of degradation and concubinage. The question here is not one of persons of profligate degraded life. On the contrary, it is proved that the great majority of persons who have contracted these marriages are persons of moral habit and sound religious feeling, and persons who do not otherwise offend against the law."

The mover of the Bill had pointed out that those who possessed the means could go to other countries and contract a marriage. He was fully aware that when they returned to this country they were exposed to unworthy taunts, and that it had been not infrequently suggested that they were living absolutely in adultery. But a working man widower, left possibly, as in many cases, with a fairly large family, was not in a position, because of his economic condition, to provide the necessary nursing and attendance to have his children properly cared for, and he often felt that no one could possess the amount of motherly feeling and affection for his children as could the sister of their mother. If that man felt that he would like her permanently to care for his children, he found that because he had not the necessary means he was unable to follow the example of his social superior and go to another country to contract a marriage. He found that although the sister might have been in the household with him, he had either to recognise her as a servant, or turn her adrift, and take somebody else into the house. They might be told, as they had been told in previous debates on this subject, that it was essential to maintain the present position in order to maintain the observance of the Divine law. If he thought that the suggested alteration of the law was going to be a violation of the Divine law he would be one of the last in the House to be a party to the bringing about of such a change. He believed in the necessity of getting the people of this country to observe to the very fullest extent the Divine law, but he claimed that in proposing this change they were not inviting the people to have less regard for the Divine law. They were not asking the people to undo the Divine law. It might be said—and there was a great deal of truth in it — that what they were asking people to do was to refuse any longer to accept ecclesiastical orders, but he had yet to learn that all ecclesiastical orders were supported by the Divine law. There appeared to him to be in the opposition to this proposal a contempt for public opinion which he had never been able to understand. It was generally admitted that the function of this House was to give legislative expression to the will of the people. The will of the people, rich and poor, in every way in which it had been tested, had been proved to be in considerable volume in favour of the change which this Bill proposed. Many of the clergy were in favour of the change, and even a large number of the clergy of the Church of England had petitioned in favour of an alteration of the law on this subject. He thought he was right in saying that every time the question had come before this House, there had been a majority in favour of a change of the law. The Parliamentary position had not ebbed and flowed on this question as was the case with some other questions, according to whether the Government was Liberal or Conservative. That appeared to him to be a very strong point in favour of the proposed change. So far as this House was concerned, the opinion had always been consistently in favour of the measure. The opinion of the churches had also gone strongly in the same direction. The majority of the conferences of the free churches last year had passed resolutions in favour of a change in the law. The Wesleyan Conference, with which he had the honour to be associated, represented a very great section of the religious life of the community, and last July, at Nottingham, it passed the following resolution—

> "That in view of the present social difficulties and serious civil disabilities arising from the illegality of marriages with a deceased wife's sister, and especially in consideration of the facts that no authority of Scripture can be urged against such marriages, that Bills in favour of legalising them have passed each House of Parliament, that the laws of our Colonies and English-speaking people generally permit them, and that a very large section of public opinion approves them, the conference shall be asked to declare that the Government should promote a measure to legalise them in England."

He did not believe the religious sentiment of the country, as expressed by the conferences of the free churches, would be in favour of the change if it could be shown that the making of the change would mean the bringing about of a violation of the Divine law. He hoped that the House would end this controversy for ever by giving the Bill the largest majority that had yet declared in favour of the change, and that the measure would this session be placed on the Statute-book, so that there would be removed one of the greatest disabilities which now rested on a large section of the community.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Sir Brampton Gordon.*)

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.) said he was conscious that in addressing the House on this subject he did not command the assent of the majority of hon. Members; but holding, as he did, a very decided opinion that this Bill should not be carried into law, he would be wanting in his duty as a Member of Parliament if he did not express his view candidly to the House. Before he came to deal with the Bill itself, and with the arguments for and against it, there were one or two observations which he wished to make in regard to the speeches of the hon. Members for Norfolk and Barnard Castle. The hon. Member for Norfolk had given a very interesting history of this Bill and had passed very strong animadversions—not a whit too strong—upon the proceedings which attended the passing of Lord Lyndhurst's Act. No one, he thought, approved now of that Act. The hon. Member, although he did not say so, left the impression on the House that marriages with a deceased wife's sister were not illegal before that Act. That was a misapprehension. Such marriages stood in precisely the same illegal position both before that Act and under it, as all marriages which depended for their legality upon affinity of the parties. Therefore, he thought it was obvious to all that the Act was only to make a certain rule as to marriages void by affinity which did not extend to marriages void by consanguinity. The idea that the Act had anything to do in connection with marriages with a deceased wife's sister, was owing to a want of knowledge of that Act. Another argument on which the hon. Member for Norfolk relied was that the Chancellor of the Exchequer treated the deceased wife's sister as a stranger for the purposes of succession. He had a great respect for the office of Chancellor of the Exchequer, but he certainly would not be surprised to learn that any Chancellor of the Exchequer regarded a deceased wife's sister as a stranger for the purposes of the succession duty of 10 per cent. He would not be surprised at all to hear that the present Chancellor of the Exchequer treated a step-daughter as a stranger for succession purposes. In fact it was quite possible that the Chancellor of the Exchequer might do anything. The hon. Member for Barnard Castle had quoted very fairly a resolution passed by the Wesleyan Conference. He very heartily concurred in the tribute of admiration which the hon. Member paid to that body, but when he went on to say that by assenting to the principle of the Bill the Wesleyan Conference proved what was the religious sentiment of the country in regard to it, with all respect to the hon. Gentleman, he thought that was going too far. [Cries of "No, no."] He quite understood that hon. Members were not prepared to admit even the right of conscience on the part of the Members of the Church of England. However, he desired to draw attention to the terms of the Bill. When the House was asked to read a Bill a second time it was important to see what that Bill would enact. He ventured to say that both in its drafting and in its substance there were certain objections to it which really ought to be brought to the attention of the House before it was read a second time. As to the matter of drafting, almost the first words appeared to him as very strange. It said that—

> "It is expedient to amend the law as to marriage with a deceased wife's sister."

As a matter of fact there was no law on the Statue-book "as to marriage with a deceased wife's sister." Then the Bill went on to say that—

> "No marriage heretofore or hereafter contracted within the realm or without shall be deemed to have been or shall be void or voidable, as a civil contract"—

he did not know whether the promoters of the Bill knew what the effect of those words would be—

> "by reason only of the affinity of the parties thereto."

And then came a limiting provision, that—

> "unless it shall be hereafter contracted in England by solemnisation according to the rites of the Established Church of England, between a man and his deceased wife's sister."

He thought that was the most astonishing drafting of a Bill he had ever heard of. He did not know whether the promoters of the Bill intended it or not, but the effect would be not to apply the Act to any marriage that took place out of this country. Then the proviso went on to say—

> "Provided that in case, before the passing of this Act, it (the marriage) shall have been annulled, or either party thereto (after the marriage and during the life of the other) shall have lawfully married another, it shall be deemed to have become and to be void upon and after the day upon which it was so annulled, or upon which either party thereto lawfully married another as aforesaid."

In other words, they were going to compulsorily legalise those marriages whether the parties desired it or not—even if they had been separated for years and would have absolutely nothing to do with each other. The hon. Member for Norfolk had said that there was some provision made for the children of such marriages, but he could see nothing of it in the Bill. He supposed that might be inserted later. Quite irrespective of those objections to the drafting of the Bill, there were two important principles which compelled him to object to making marriage with a deceased wife's sister lawful. First, this Bill was made retrospective; and secondly, it established two absolutely distinct classes of marriage. There were to be marriages which were to be lawful from a civic point of view, and marriages which were still to remain unlawful from an ecclesiastical point of view. To make a law retrospective was a complete departure from the practice of Parliament, and in this instance it would whitewash by the authority of the State people who had committed a moral wrong. He quite admitted that if they were going to make this law at all workable, they had to provide some loophole out of the difficulty which would compel a clergyman of the Church of England from marrying such persons. But they must not conceal from themselves the fact that in introducing for the first time two different kinds of marriage, they for the first time established that the State had one standard of morality and the Church another. [Cries of "No, no."] Such changes in the law ought not to be introduced without very great need indeed. What were the reasons alleged in favour of the Bill? He had tried to ascertain them by reading. The hon. Member for Norfolk did not think it necessary to go into the reasons, relying as he did on previous debates. What were they? In the first place, the strongest reason was that these marriages were lawful in the Colonies and that it was a great hardship for colonists who came over to this country and found that they were, according to the law of England, unlawfully married. That undoubtedly was a strong argument, but was met by the Government last session passing a Bill with almost unanimous assent on both sides to recognise such marriages. But the argument still remained that these marriages were lawful in a large number of foreign countries, as well as in the Colonies, and that we ought to follow suit. Personally, he did not like the argument of following suit. He thought this country was quite capable of deciding for itself. [MINISTERIAL cries of "Hear, hear."] He was glad that the recollection of hon. Gentlemen opposite in regard to other proposals obviously induced them to share that statement. But he would point out that in all countries where the Greek Church was established these marriages were unlawful, and so also in the case of Italy. In France, Belgium, and Holland these marriages were lawful subject to a dispensation from the Chief of the State. In Germany they were lawful, but so were a very large number of other marriages which no one desired, at any rate at present, to make lawful in this country. There was no doubt that in a very large number of our Colonies these marriages were lawful, and it was also true that in a considerable number of those Colonies the whole of the marriage law was very different from the law here. The facilities for divorce were very different from what they were in this country, and he doubted very much whether any conclusion could be drawn from their laws in regard to what had been proved to be desirable here. The same observation applied perhaps with more force to America, but there again he was prepared to say, with more confidence than he could of any other country, that he was not willing to take his morals from America. The reason the change was desired was that it was said that it would be greatly for the convenience of a large section of the community. The hon. Member for Barnard Castle had drawn an eloquent word-picture of the desire of the working man that his wife's sister should keep house for him. That was the whole position. Were they to treat the wife's sister as being in the same position as the husband's sister? Was she his sister or not? If she was, she could without objection go and keep house for the man as she did in many cases. He was sceptical as to the public demand. He did not think that the condition of the House showed that there was a large demand. [An HON. MEMBER: Look at the divisions.] He was perfectly well aware of the figures in the divisions, but people often divided the House and voted in favour of a Bill of which they profoundly disapproved. He therefore thought that the condition of the House showed that there was not a great amount of public interest taken in this question. He was not asked a single question about it during the election and had only had one letter upon the subject. He did not think that anyone of his constituents cared two straws about the question. The real grievance which underlay the promotion of this Bill was pity for those who had gone through the form of marriage with their deceased wife's sister and those with whom they had entered into this relationship. They were thought to be deserving of a great amount of sympathy, and there was a great desire to relieve them from the consequences of their acts. That idea seemed to him to be most subversive of the whole law of the country. Even assuming that it was an unreasonable and perverse law, there were people who, knowing the law, deliberately contracted these marriages, and who had deliberately broken the law. Then they came to this House and asked to be relieved from the consequences of their act. He utterly and emphatically protested against any such doctrine. If the promoters simply proposed to deal with future marriages, he would feel very differently, although all his objections would not be removed. There was no strong case for the Bill, and in spite of the utterance of John Bright, who was usually very dogmatic in his opinions, which had been quoted, he contended that very strong arguments could be urged against the Bill. We must have some regulation of the marriage law; it could not be left entirely to human instinct. The Royal family of Egypt, the Ptolemys, used to marry their own sisters. [An HON. MEMBER: The whole nation married them.] Perhaps the whole nation did, but he only knew about the Royal family. They made these marriages as a matter of course. Therefore they could not regard human instincts; they must have some regulation either by law, or by some ecclesiastical ordinance. If they were satisfied that these marriages were forbidden, not by the Church of England, but by other bodies, and the prohibition was recognised by the whole Christian Church, it seemed to him that the House would do wisely to make that decision the foundation of the legislation of this country. He was grateful to the hon. Member for Barnard Castle for plainly saying that this was a matter of religion, but he said that there was a sharp distinction between the law of God and the law of Churches. Would the hon. Member tell them who was to satisfy them what was the law of God? Was it to be settled by those who desired to marry their deceased wife's sister, or was it to be settled by the great current of opinion of religious men who had considered the question, whether they belonged to this Church or the other? He did not wish to set up as a judge of what was or what was not the law of God, but he would rather take the opinion of eminent divines than that of those who desired to marry their deceased wife's sister. The principle upon which the law rested was that husband and wife were one, that the relations of the husband were the relations of the wife, and that the relations of the wife were the relations of the husband. That principle was accepted in every case except that of the deceased wife's sister. It was not proposed to allow a man to marry his stepdaughter or his niece, or a stepmother to marry her stepson or a woman her nephew. Therefore it was proposed to make a solitary exception to that principle upon grounds which had no support except from the people who desired the change. He thought the number of these people was exaggerated. [An HON MEMBER: Common sense.] He would like the hon. Member to tell them upon what principle of common sense he relied in order to make this exception to the general principle which governed the law of marriage. He quite admitted that underlying this question there was a fundamental difference of opinion, but hon. Gentlemen who relied upon what they called common sense took, he thought, a view which if carried into effect would be disastrous to the country. They really took this view—that because a man and his sister-in-law were not connected by blood they should marry. [AN HON. MEMBER: Common sense.] Exactly; that was what was called common sense. He protested against this materialistic conception of marriage. He denied that marriage was a State institution for breeding children, but that was really the principle which underlay the "common sense" view. At any rate, this materialistic view of marriage, whatever might be said—and he addressed now hon. Members who, though he disagreed with them upon ecclesiastical questions, were as earnest Christians as he himself—was not the view of the majority of the Christian people of this country. He regretted much that he was not the kind of person who could describe the view of the majority in such a way as would carry conviction with it, but he might, without offence, go as far as to say that the Christian view of marriage was not materialistic; it was not an agreement entered into between a man and a woman merely for the sake of raising children. It was something more than that, and hon. Members must, and he trusted would, when considering this question, look upon it not merely as an isolated matter with which they could deal by this Bill, but as part of a great movement which had swept over this country. It was part of the great movement of materialism which was threatening the country. He was quite aware that hon. Members would not agree with him, but they would so far agree as to admit that such a movement did exist. No one could look at the literature provided for the greatest number of readers, the halfpenny paper, without being struck with the extremely materialistic view that was taken of life; no one could attend, or see the programme of popular places of amusement, without seeing the same tendency. When travelling recently he entered into conversation with a commercial traveller, who, like all commercial travellers he had met, was a man of great intelligence. That gentleman described to him what he considered to be the great change which had come over the mass of the population of the north. It was undoubtedly a greater desire for amusement, and amusement occupied a greater place in their lives. Hon. Members who had read Mr. Shadwell's interesting work on industrial efficiency would remember that he had arrived at the same conclusion, whilst those who had read Mr. Charles Booth's "Life and Labour in London" would note that in various passages he had emphasised that fact. Mr. Charles Booth was a perfectly impartial witness in this matter. He was not a member of the Established Church, and had no religious axe, as it was termed, to grind. He merely stated the facts which he found to exist, and the conclusions he was forced to draw from an examination of those facts. If he (Lord Robert Cecil) was right in thinking that this Bill was really the outcome of a more materialistic view of marriage, then he asked the House before passing it earnestly to consider, not what would be the actual effect of the measure if passed, but what would be the moral effect. The standard which this House set up in matters of morality and religion would have a lasting effect on the welfare of the country. He begged to move that the Bill be read a second time this day six months.

*SIR FRANCIS POWELL (Wigan), in seconding the Motion, said his first surprise upon reading this Bill was to find a very large extension as compared with the proposals in the Bill on former occasions. In the year 1903, when the Bill was referred to a Standing Committee, the first clause ran—

> "No marriage heretofore or hereafter contracted within the realm or without, other than a marriage hereafter contracted in England by solemnisation thereof by a clergyman of the established Church of England, shall be deemed to have been or shall be void or voidable by reason only of having been, or being contracted between a man and his deceased wife's sister,"

and so forth to the end of a long clause. That Bill was entitled, and the words carried out the idea, a Bill for Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister. The first clause of the present Bill was—

> "No marriage heretofore or hereafter contracted within the realm or without shall be deemed to have been or shall be void or voidable, as a civil contract, by reason only of the affinity of the parties thereto, unless it shall be hereafter contracted in England by solemnisation according to the rites of the Established Church of England, between a man and his deceased wife's sister: Provided that in case, before the passing of this Act, it shall have been annulled, or either party thereto (after the marriage and during the life of the other) shall have lawfully married another, it shall be deemed to have become and to be void upon and after the day upon which it was so annulled, or upon which either party thereto lawfully married another as aforesaid."

He did not know what the Chairman of Committees would rule when they came to the Committee stage, but that certainly struck him as being a remarkable extension of the Bill beyond the title. The long title dealt only with the marriage with a deceased wife's sister. The short title said the Bill might be described as the "Deceased Wife's Sister Bill." He ventured to direct the attention of the House to the fact that the provisions of the Bill went far beyond the title either long or short. Whether they would be amended or not he would not venture to say, but he submitted that it was not quite fair either to the religious communities of this country or the country as a whole to parade this Bill in the newspapers and describe it as a Bill dealing with marriage with a deceased wife's sister when they found the Bill itself had a far wider scope. That was not dealing with the public fairly, and he felt very great regret that such a method should be adopted with regard to a Bill of this magnitude. He hoped the Member in charge of the Bill would amend the titles when they came to the Committee stage, so that if it ever came into operation the Bill would not be a misleading or mischievous statute. The history of the Bill was strangely complex. It had not always been adopted by the House. It had experienced the neap as well as the spring tides of success. The hon. Member for Barnard Castle had referred to the action of the free churches upon this question, but, without any want of respect to those highly intelligent, deeply religious, and extremely well organised bodies, he might remind the House that the Church of England was opposed to it as also was the Roman Catholic Church. As his noble friend in the opening of his speech reminded the House, in many countries these marriages were absolutely and entirely forbidden, and in the Roman Catholic Church they were only provided for by dispensations which were the solemn acts of the highest authority of that Church, and in that community to-day there was condemnation of the practice. He was not quite sure what the opinion of the hon. Member who moved the Second Reading was as regards the duty of the clergy. Many of our clergy had a conscientious objection to performing these marriages. Did the hon. Member understand that if this Bill passed as it now stood every clergyman would be bound in his own parish to celebrate a marriage between a man and his deceased wife's sister? He heard no reply. He had heard that question asked when the Divorce Act was before the Committee, and then as a clergyman could not be compelled to marry a divorced person if it was against his religious convictions so to do, that was left optional. He was quite certain that many of the clergy would strongly object to marry persons under the sanction of this Bill, and it would be a great encroachment on their consciences to compel them to do a thing which they thought to be irreligious and wrong. He did not intend to enter into a long argument against the Bill; it had occupied the attention of the Standing Committee at no less than nine sittings, and the arguments adduced against it, although not effectual, were pressed very strongly by the then Solicitor-General Sir Edward Carson, who said—

> "They were going to marry people who now, either by agreement or disagreement, were living apart and who were not at present legally married. Would those parties who had separated by mutual consent or for matrimonial offences have a right to bring a suit for restitution of conjugal rights from the fact that an Act of Parliament had married them or remarried them again? Was it the intention, where a man had married his deceased wife's sister, and one of the parties was now living in open adultery, that the pair were to be compulsorily married again by this Bill? Were they to be compelled to come and live together again? What was worse, the Bill was going to legitimise the children of the man who had been living in adultery, and so leave illegitimate the children of the man who had married again or gone through the form of getting annulled a marriage that was no marriage at all. The Bill would give rise to all sorts of conundrums, such as, When was a marriage not a marriage? When was adultery not adultery? When was desertion not desertion?"

Great statesman like the Duke of Argyle and great and eminent lawyers like Lord Selborne and Lord Hatherley had expressed opinions strongly adverse to the Bill. Some years ago when this Bill was before the other House Lord Selborne said—

> "My noble and learned friend (Lord Hatherley), having taken great pains to ascertain the facts among the poor of Westminster, has borne the same testimony. If we were to bring together all the aberrations of our law in matters relating to the connection of the sexes we should no doubt have a very alarming and very lamentable catalogue of evils. But does any one suppose that by adapting our law to such a state of things we should not produce a greater amount of mischief? For these reasons, my Lords, I earnestly entreat you not to agree to the Second Reading of this Bill."

In respect to the working man argument, he was struck by the observation of the hon. Gentleman who seconded the Second Reading to the effect that the Labour group was not unanimous upon this question. That was a very important admission. The hon. Member did not seem to regard what was regarded in the middle classes as the position held by the wife's sister. The hon. Member spoke of the position of the sister of the wife, if the law was changed, living in the respectable home of the workman as a member of his family. As the law stood now that was her position, but if the law was changed the position of the sister of the wife in the working man's dwelling, necessarily confined in area, became so painful as to be almost impossible. This was a Bill to expel from the dwelling of the working man the sister of the deceased wife. He looked upon that as a great hardship, and he did not think members of the working classes who supported the Bill had considered that difficulty. He was aware that some ecclesiastics were in favour of the Bill, of whom Dr. Hood of Leeds was one, but those were exceptional cases. The great body of clergy, those who knew most of the real interests of the working classes, were as opposed to the Bill now as they had been in the past. He took some part in the discussion of the Bill in 1904 and also in the debates in the Standing Committee, which sat nine times and in which Lord Hugh Cecil took a prominent part and, strongly supported by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, settled the fate of the Bill. What the fate of this Bill would be he would not say, but he insisted on the necessity of the title being made to agree with the Bill, so that no deceit should be practised on the public. He hoped the House would reject the Second Reading.

Amendment proposed—

"To leave out the word 'now,' and at the end of the Question to add the words 'upon this day six months.'"—(*Lord Robert Cecil.*)

Question proposed, "That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

*SIR J. JARDINE (Roxburghshire) said he had been greatly interested in the noble Lord's argument for making the municipal law conform to the law Divine, but surely this was hard to do, in the absence of an infallible interpreter of the Divine intentions. This Bill used to be opposed on the religious ground that it was contrary to a certain passage in the Book of Leviticus, but the argument had now been shifted and they heard no rule of Holy Scripture quoted against these marriages. The noble Lord took objection to the retrospective provisions as contrary to ecclesiastical traditions and the Canon Law of the Church. But it should be remembered that the rule which allowed a later matrimony between the parents to legitimate bastard children was long ago in most solemn form propounded by the Church in plain direct opposition to the common law of England, which allowed no such retrospective legitimation. Doubtless some English Churchmen might be averse to the proposal of the Bill, but he believed Cardinal Newman had expressed himself in favour of it. Wesleyan Methodists, Primitive Methodists, and Congregationalists approved of it; and in solemn form their conferences had stated that these marriages were not forbidden by the Word of God. So they found the various Churches differing, and there was no infallible guide, not even the Pope; nor could Parliament place any great reliance on the views of kings like Henry VIII. or old Lord Chancellors. All experience showed that in dealing with the institution of marriage opinions changed from age to age and from one generation to another. The safest rule, therefore, was to impute a sort of Divine sanction to what conformed to the highest public utility, and to ascertain that by means of public opinion, and such statements as had been made by the hon. Member for Barnard Castle.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (Kent, Ashford) said it was difficult to avoid going over ground which had been covered in previous debates on the question in either House. Before entering upon the Bill, he must say that he thought they were entitled to some explanation as to the extreme difficulty which the mover said he was in by reason of the Bill having been printed in hurried circumstances. They were entitled to claim some explanation of why he had brought in this particular Bill. The hon. Gentleman was one of those who last year introduced a Bill which dealt with the matter in a very different manner from that proposed by the present Bill. Many points were raised in Grand Committee, where the Bill was thoroughly discussed and dissected, and where additions were put in consequent upon the undoubted strength of the arguments used. But in this present Bill the hon. Member had apparently suddenly changed his mind, and gone back to what he might call the primitive opinion, disregarding the counsels of this House, disregarding the careful consideration given to the subject in Grand Committee, and disregarding his own settled conviction in connection with the matter last year. If that were so, he thought surely they had some claim for an explanation as to why the hon. Gentleman had shifted his ground so entirely in reference to the question of how to deal with the matter in the easiest manner. It was impossible for the hon. Gentleman now, under the rules of the House, to give his explanation, but he thought it ought to be given by some one before they divided. With reference to what had been said by the last speaker, supported by one of the previous speakers, it seemed to him an extraordinary argument to lay down, in matters which really affected the root of our whole Christian system, that they were to be guided not by tradition, not by expert opinion, but by the ever varying phases of public opinion of the moment. That might be very well for ordinary political subjects, but surely they could not be guided by such a rule in matters of conscience.

Attention called to the fact that forty Members were not present. House counted; and forty Members being found present—

MR. LAURENCE HARDY (resuming) said he thought it was hardly fair to adopt the history of the matter which had been given by the hon. mover of the Bill. After all, that history went back only to a period comparatively modern. But in considering this question they must be guided by the fact that for fourteen hundred years there had been no doubt whatever as to the grounds of consanguinity in connection with marriages. It was surely curious that those who repudiated in any shape the priestly power of any man, however exalted, whether Pontiff or chief priest, should desire to claim in support of their views the fact that in certain cases some person in high ecclesiastical authority was given the power to make legitimate marriages which would otherwise be void according to canon law. It was an argument which they could hardly put forward with any great strength. It had been said, however, that general public opinion was in favour of this change. He would like to quote an instance affecting himself. He passed through the general election of 1900, and, although he was fighting what one might call an ecclesiastical battle, he was never asked a single question about the subject of the present Bill. But after the election he received a communication from a society which took great interest in this matter, in which they informed him that they had canvassed his constituency and had found that nearly everybody they asked was in favour of this Bill, to which he was understood to be opposed, and they asked him why he did not consider public opinion on the point. The natural answer was that it seemed curious that they should have sought to ascertain public opinion after the general election, and not at the time when he was standing for the constituency. They assured him that this census had been taken, and they represented that the opinion was so unanimous that he appealed to his constituents, but he had never received a single question from any admirer of the Bill, though a good many communications had been sent to him by those opposed to it. He agreed with the noble Lord beside him as to the general trend of opinion on this subject among a large number of the public; but he confessed that he did not think in this case they ought to reverse the dictum laid down by the right hon. Gentleman who was now Chief Secretary for Ireland, when he said that minorities must suffer. This was a case, however, where the minority sought to make the majority suffer; because, after all, he did not think any hon. Member would say that the larger number of men desired to marry their deceased wife's sister, and there were a great many more sisters-in-law in existence than would be likely to come under this Bill. But the position of these women would become unfortunate if this Bill became law. The speech of the hon. Member for Barnard Castle, who spoke with thorough conviction and in an admirable manner, naturally met with the sympathy of the House. But the point which the hon. Member raised had often been dealt with. Although there might be hardship on the one side there was still greater hardship on the other. What was the description given of this matter by various religious bodies in this country? They said—

> "This is abolishing, in effect, the entire relations of brothers and sisters-in-law. A woman who may eventually become a man's wife never can be his sister. The familiar attentions of a brother he may not show to her, nor may she accept them at his hand. In the same hour in which marriage becomes possible with her sister's husband, she must for ever pass out of the shelter and sacredness of sisterhood, and, at the best, be in his house simply as any other friend, or more distant relative, would be. At present she may, without embarrassment or suspicion, be constantly under his roof, showing his children, as their aunt, all fond attentions, and, as his sister-in-law, receiving from him expressions of familiar brotherly endearment. But once let it be made possible for the sister-in-law to become the wife, and the aunt the step-mother, and all is immediately changed—and not changed, be it borne in mind, for those households only where these marriages are not disapproved of, but, out of regard to their interests, changed for the whole families and households of the country."

This was the matured opinion of trusted ministers of Nonconformist churches in England, ministers of the Free Church of Scotland, the United Presbyterian Church, the Reformed Presbyterian Church, and the original Secession Church. It was now reissued with the additional concurrence of Ministers and Professors of the Presbyterian Churches in Ireland as well as Scotland. It was really, as he had said, the fact that if they did this injustice, it would be an injustice to the majority. It was in order to meet what might be a few unfortunate cases that supporters of this Bill were seeking to bring in a new system which would upset the old conditions of things, and do a great injustice to a large number of very worthy women in this country. It had been put as if it was a question between rich and poor. Those who opposed the Bill had been sometimes taunted with having changed their line of argument, that they did not now depend on the old Scriptural argument from the old Testament, but had adopted other arguments on rather different lines. But it was the supporters of the Bill who had changed their line. This Bill, in its origin, had, it was said, its strength in the support which came from the richer and not the poorer classes, but now appeals were made on behalf of the poor. One, however, who knew the poor very well, the Bishop of London, had expressed in the very strongest terms, that his experience, and his great knowledge of the working-class parts of the Metropolis, convinced him that this was not a question in which the poor could be used as an argument, and to say that this was a Bill for the poor, in his opinion did not justify them in altering a very ancient tradition, in altering the condition of the law, which at all events was symmetrical, and which had something behind it at present. Once they admitted the principle of the Bill they would be carried on to many further exceptions to the present marriage law, and might not even stop at other degrees of affinity which they did not contemplate touching at the present moment. In opposing this measure in previous years they had often had the Colonial aspect brought up, and when that question was presented in a tangible and independent position, as was the case last year, he agreed that it should be dealt with. If, as a State, they gave their assent to Bills of that nature for the Colonies, it was only right that they should acknowledge the *status* of those people who were married legally in the Colonies, and, for that reason, he welcomed the Bill brought forward by the Government last year. At all events, the Colonial Marriages Bill had removed a grievance which, in his opinion, was a genuine one. The passing of that measure showed that the Government felt that there was a real grievance in regard to those Colonial marriages, and so they dealt with it. But the question dealt with in this measure was not one which he thought the Government ought to take up, and before they passed from this debate he hoped they would be informed as to the attitude of the Government in regard to it. In former years, under their old procedure, private Bills of this character could be discussed upon their merits, because they felt that such measures always had to go on unofficially, and depend upon the position they obtained in the ballot. But the whole condition of things in regard to private legislation had been altered, and Bills might now be introduced on a Friday in order to make it convenient for the Government to adopt them later. At the present time they never felt certain whether they were dealing with a private Bill or a Government measure, and therefore they were bound to make sure what was the actual position of the Government upon all the Bills that came up for discussion on a Friday afternoon. Many large questions had been dealt with on Fridays after comparatively short debates, because everybody knew it was simply a discussion to ventilate the matter and that the Bill would not proceed any further. That state of things had now been altered, and consequently they were bound to insist upon knowing whether the Government intended to adopt any particular private Bill as a Government measure. He regretted that the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies was not present in order to give his view. No doubt the House would be glad to know whether the Under-Secretary's opinion upon this measure was the same as it used to be, or whether it had undergone any change. As to sending this measure to a Grand Committee, their experience in the last Parliament ought to convince anybody that there could not be a more unsuitable body for dealing with such a Bill, because upon this question Parties were divided, and it was impossible to constitute a Grand Committee of a satisfactory character. It did not matter so much whether there was a large or a small number opposing this measure, because they did not oppose it upon any grounds of an ordinary political character. It was a matter upon which no political exigency or majority could possibly alter their views. Those who favoured a relaxation of the marriage laws, and alterations in reference to divorce, naturally supported Bills of this nature; but, on the other hand, those who believed that there was nothing in the Christian religion which was so sacred as the bond of marriage, holding it to have been based on the firmest lines by the founder of Christianity himself, could not agree to any tampering with the principle which had obtained during all these centuries, and which had been firmly held by the great Christian churches of the universe, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Eastern Church, the Church of England, the Presbyterian Church and other religious bodies. These were the considerations which obliged the opponets of this measure to hold firmly to their convictions. It was because they valued beyond measure the advantages gained by Christianity, and because they believed that Christianity held its power by the fact that it alone, of all the ancient religions, had placed marriage in the highest and foremost position, that they opposed this Bill, which, in their opinion, tampered with the marriage laws, and was founded upon the same principles that had, in the past, led to a relaxation of the marriage laws and the law of divorce. They had seen the disadvantages of such a relaxation in the United States, where the marriage law was in a most unsatisfactory condition. Consequently they felt bound to use every legitimate means at their disposal, as representatives of the public opinion of the country, to prevent any further relaxation of the marriage laws. For these reasons he was very glad indeed to associate himself with the mover of this Amendment.

*Mr. SMEATON (Stirlingshire) said that, coming, more or less as a neutral, to hear both sides of the question, he had been struck by a significant admission made by the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone. One of the statements made by the noble Lord seemed to him to be the strongest possible argument in favour of this Bill. He had stated that if in its operation the retrospective character of the Bill could be eliminated, his whole opinion in regard to the measure would be changed.

Lord R. CECIL said what he stated was that it would make a considerable difference, but it would not convert him and he should not even then be in favour of the Bill.

*Mr. SMEATON asked if the noble Lord would say how far the concession of non-retrospective operation would alter his opinion, because an admission of that kind was very significant indeed. He did not see where his point came in with reference to its being immoral or irreligious. Even the noble Lord would admit that a division of morality and religion into two classes—retrospective and prospective—was absurd. The main pillar of the Opposition thus fell to the ground, and he hoped the Bill would pass.

LORD EDMUND TALBOT (Sussex, Chichester) said that a question of this kind would naturally attract the attention of anyone who, like himself, was a Catholic. It was remarkable that, although this question was so closely associated with religion his co-religionists were free, owing to the way in which this measure had been brought forward, to vote as they liked in regard to it. They could, however, only do so on the ground of expediency. Marriage with a deceased wife's sister was against the law of the Catholic Church, and was absolutely forbidden by it, and it was only possible under their law of dispensation that occasions did arise where such marriages were made lawful. He was not going to enter into a discussion as to the law of dispensation, because that was a subject which was not likely to meet with much sympathy in that House. The law of dispensation was not a matter which affected a very large number of people in this country, but it was one which concerned his co-religionists, and them alone. It was the existence of this law of dispensation in the Catholic Church, and its being applicable to marriages of this character, which alone made it possible for members of the Catholic religion to support a measure of this kind, if they so wished. He frankly confessed that when he considered the question some years ago he was strongly inclined to support such a change on the ground of expediency, but further reflection had convinced him that he would be much wiser to stick to the principle of the condemnation of these marriages by the Catholic Church, notwithstanding that in individual cases a certain amount of hardship might arise. He believed that it was at the present time of more importance to maintain a rigid adherence to the actual marriage laws of the Church than to weaken them in any sense. He had not had the advantage of hearing the speech of the hon. Member for Barnard Castle, but he understood that he had supported this measure because there was a great demand for it amongst the poor people. He agreed with the hon. Member to this extent: that if ever there was a question upon which there ought to be one law for the rich and another for the poor, this was the question. They could all understand how, in this country, in the crowded cities, cases might arise where it was advisable to make an exception with regard to marriages of this character. The Catholic Church recognised that such rare occasions might arise, and in such cases it granted a dispensation. But he was extremely sceptical as to the demand which was said to exist for such marriages. A very distinguished Bishop of the Catholic Church who died two or three years ago told him that in the whole course of his career as a parish priest and Bishop he had hardly ever come across a single case. He remembered being told, a short time before his death, by the late Cardinal Manning, who was Archbishop of the Catholic diocese of Westminster for a period of over thirty years, that the number of applications which had been made to him with a view to obtaining dispensation for a marriage with a deceased wife's sister was extremely limited. If that was the case with a community which admittedly possessed in this country an enormous percentage of very poor people, and in a community where it was possible to obtain ecclesiastical sanction for such marriages, he thought went to show that the demand was not so great as some hon. Members would lead the House to suppose. Where two parties had contracted such a marriage in accordance with perfectly conscientious convictions, and they had been placed at some disability on that account, it might be advisable that such marriages should be allowed. Upon this question he thought that a great change had come over the opinion of a great number of his co-religionists, more especially among the ecclesiastical authorities of the Catholic Church, in recent years, not only in this country, but also abroad. He was sorry to see the misery which had been caused in this and many other countries by the weakening of the marriage law, which had made the ecclesiastical authorities of the Catholic Church tend to the opinion that any further weakening of that law would be a dangerous step, and detrimental to the moral welfare of the community. It was upon these grounds that he should certainly oppose this Bill. He joined in the appeal to the Government to declare their intention in reference to the matter.

*MR. TOMKINSON (Cheshire, Crewe) said that ever since he had been a Member of the House of Commons he had taken considerable interest in this matter. He had risen to take part in the debate because he happened to be a member of the Committee to which this Bill was committed on the last occasion of its passing the House on Second Reading. It was no exaggeration to say that if this had been not merely a measure for removing a disability and relieving a number of people from a hardship, but one making it compulsory for a man to marry his deceased wife's sister, it could not have been resisted on the Committee with more pertinacity than was the case on that occasion. In his opinion this was essentially a poor man's Bill. If it were not, he would not care at all to take the interest in it which he did. The hon. Member for the Barnard Castle Division had spoken for the working men of England who were interested above all others in the passing of the measure. Some of his own constituents were specially interested in the matter. He represented a great number of workers, and he would give the House an instance to illustrate what some people suffered under the present state of the law. A poor man had written to him as follows—

> "My young wife died leaving me with two little children; her sister, then with a husband living, took charge of them, brought them up and was a mother to them. She is now left a widow herself with young children of her own and no one to support her. It is not right we should marry and I should make a home for us all?"

This poor man could not afford to maintain two establishments, and he appealed to the House of Commons. It was possible that this widow might have to beg the parish for relief. The noble Lord the Member for the Chichester Division had stated that the Roman Catholic Church condemned such marriages because they were not moral, and yet he admitted that in certain cases dispensations were granted. He had never heard a confession which afforded a clearer exemplification of the doctrine that it was possible some time to do wrong in order that good might come. Hon. Members opposite could not claim that Holy Writ was opposed to the principle of this Bill, for the Jews had no objection even to marriage with a living wife's sister. There was the well-known case of Jacob marrying both Leah and Rachel. Under our present law very close cases of consanguinity were allowed. He knew of a case in which two brothers married two sisters, and the son of the one marriage married the daughter of the other. Here, the blood being the same all through, these last were virtually brother and sister.

*MR. JESSE COLLINGS (Birmingham, Bordesley) said this was not a Party question in any sense. The Bill had been before the House for many years, and his name had been on the back of it on former occasions. He felt deeply the necessity for this Bill from the point of view of morality and religion. Some of them on his side were not guided by those ecclesiastical laws and traditions which had been alluded to. He believed, if the Bill became law, it would be, in the highest sense, in accordance with every law, both human and Divine. It was true that the effect of the law was not the same for the rich as for the poor, because the rich could always go abroad and get, at any rate, the sanction of the law there, which satisfied the conscience and feeling of the woman. They all knew of highly respectable, good-living people who had adopted that course and were not at all affected in their own minds, or in the minds of their fellow-citizens, by the fact that the law of their own land did not sanction what they had done. But the poorer classes, the working men, could not afford a trip to Switzerland, and many were obliged to suffer obloquy in consequence. He believed our law was almost the only one that did not sanction such marriages. Years ago he looked into the question of how this law affected working men, and he could tell the House from his own knowledge of many cases which were typical of a multitude in which a working man who had the misfortune to lose his wife looked to her sister as the natural protector of the children. Therefore from the natural and common-sense point of view—the point of view of convenience, in which sensuality and desire had no place—there ought to be a change in the law. The people who contracted this tie led exemplary lives, were faithful one to the other, and were man and wife in all things but for this ostracism. From the higher point of view he did not believe that the people who contracted these marriages had committed any sin. They had been prevented by artificial barriers, and by circumstances over which they had no control, from contracting legal marriages. Those who voted against this Bill, in accordance with their conscience, and perhaps in obedience to some ecclesiastical law, were doing something to perpetuate what in the eyes of society was wrong. The noble Lord the Member for the Chichester Division had said that the Roman Catholic Church did not wish to weaken the marriage law. None of them wished to do so. It was the highest institution, on which not only the domestic life, but the economy of the nation was based. But the present law did weaken the marriage law in the highest degree; it violated human instincts by creating an artificial barrier. He could not understand the opposition to the Bill. If it were proposed to pass a law to compel a man to marry his deceased wife's sister he could quite understand the opposition. But that was not the object of the measure. The present law was a presumption founded on ecclesiasticism which he for one rejected. The opposition to the measure was most illogical. It partook of that terrible demand which was the basis of the inquisition that ecclesiastics should regulate not only the lives, but the thoughts and opinions of men. Happily they had not the power now that they had then, but the spirit was the same. They ought not to stamp as a crime that which was not wrong in the eyes of God or man.

*MR. S. COLLINS (Lambeth, Kennington) said that as a Free Churchman he admired the noble Lord the Member for East Marylebone not only as an individual but also as an earnest Christian worker in the great Church which he adorned, but he protested against his description of the object of the Bill. He would give three instances of men who had suffered under the present law—respectable men and Free Churchmen. One married his deceased wife's sister—a most earnest Christian worker, and now they were living very happily together and were respected by everyone. Another was a tradesman who was a good earnest Christian worker. He had not married his late wife's sister, but he was living with her. He had not gone so far as marriage because he thought that if he got married he would be breaking the law. Another man in the Free Church, a Christian from his boyhood, had his wife's sister living with him as his housekeeper. He knew they loved each other, yet these two persons were suffering because of their high conception of religion, and because they would not break the law; they preferred to suffer. The noble Lord had said that a wave of materialism was sweeping over the land. If that were so one way to arrest it would be by passing this Bill, thus making it easier for people to do right, and more difficult to do wrong.

*MR. TALBOT (Oxford University) said he wished to ask the hon. Member who introduced the Bill as to the intention of the first clause. He understood it was intended to relieve the scruples of the clergy of the Church of England. Did the words that no marriage should be void or voidable "as a civil contract, by reason only of the affinity of the parties thereto," mean the opening of the door to the legalisation of all marriages of affinity?

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON said that the words quoted by the right hon. Member must be read with the words at the end of the section "between a man and his deceased wife's sister." The clause only applied to that extent.

*MR. TALBOT said he could not congratulate the hon. Member on the drafting of the clause. However, that could be put right if the Bill were accepted. The effect of the argument of those who supported the Bill appeared to be that because the Church of Rome granted dispensations for these marriages, that showed that they could not be wrong in themselves, but only wrong ecclesiastically. If that was really their contention, then he was afraid that they were going a great deal further than they intended. The Roman Church, as must be well known to every student of history, had granted dispensations in cases which would be abhorrent to the feelings of hon. Gentlemen on both sides of the House, as, for example, and in recent history, of a man marrying his own niece. If that was the interpretation of the hon. Member for Norfolk, that the mere fact of the dispensation being granted made such a marriage right, and only wrong ecclesiastically, a man might marry his niece without breaking the moral law.

*Sir BRAMPTON GURDON said he did not believe in dispensations at all, but he, and those who agreed with him, maintained that since the Roman Catholic Church granted dispensations in favour of marriage with a deceased wife's sister, it could not be said that the prohibition was based upon morality. The right hon. Gentleman the Member for Oxford University had referred to him as a baronet, to which he strongly objected. He had never been guilty of putting down blocking motions, or talking against time, or committing any of those crimes which were justly punished by the infliction of a baronetcy! The right hon. Gentleman would forgive him if he said did not belong to what he had heard called the aristocracy of the middle classes.

*Mr. TALBOT said he wished to press home this matter about dispensations, and to show to the House of Commons that this was part of a great question. His noble friend the Member for East Marylebone, in a tone and with eloquence which he could not emulate, but with which he agreed, had emphasised the fac that in dealing with this question they were not dealing with it alone; but tha it was part of the fundamental question of polity both in Church and State, and that in touching the marriage law they were doing a very perilous thing. He was fortified in that opinion by the experience of the Colonies and of the United States, which had gone much further than the proposals contained in this miserable Bill. Were the advocates of the legalisation of marriage with a deceased wife's sister prepared to go the same lengths? He did not hesitate to say that in countries where these relaxations of the law of marriage had been permitted, other relaxations infinitely more perilous, such as the relaxation of the law of divorce, had almost inevitably followed. ["No, no."] He maintained that to pass this Bill was to take a long step in weakening the foundations of morality and of marriage itself. ["No, no."] He called the attention of the hon. Gentleman who moved the Second Reading to an abstract from the proceedings of the Standing Committee which considered a similar Bill in 1903.

> "Mr. Boscawen proposed to leave out two lines of the clause, as follows: 'Or unless either party thereto has (after the marriage and during the life of the other), before the passing of this Act, lawfully married another.' He argued the Amendment on the ground that all these marriages should be treated alike, and no invidious exceptions made.
>
> "Sir G. Parker said that if a man took advantage of his legal position to throw over a marriage with a deceased wife's sister in order to marry somebody else, that could not be helped.
>
> "Mr. Talbot regarded the reply as an admirable illustration of the hopeless illogicality of the Bill. A man, insolent and depraved, was to be allowed to throw over an unhappy woman and contract a lawful alliance with another woman, and then they were to say to the poor creature who had been decoyed into an illegal marriage that she was to have no rights in future, although at the same time they were legalising this class of marriage for all other purposes. A more cruel treatment of women he had never heard of."

*Sir BRAMPTON GURDON: That is what this Bill is designed to prevent.

*Mr. TALBOT said that they were told that the working classes of England were almost unanimously, or very largely, in favour of this Bill. If that were so, it was very strange that they did not take measures to show it. If they wanted a Trade Disputes Bill, or any other social measures, they lost no opportunity of making their views known. Where were the bodies of working men in favour of this Bill?

Mr. SHACKLETON (Lancashire, Clitheroe): On these (the Labour) Benches.

*MR. TALBOT: Then why was it that they had never had petitions from them in favour of the Bill? He himself had presented many petitions from working people against the Bill. Where were the public meetings in favour of it? Where was the Member who could stand up and say that he had been returned to vote for this Bill? [Several HON. MEMBERS: Here.] There might be exceptions; but he asked hon. Members when they went home to put it quietly to themselves whether this was a matter on which their constituents were anxious. He would like to say a word about the feeling of the working women in the country. Unless he was misinformed, a large majority of women of all ranks were opposed to the Bill. ["No, no."] Though he himself was opposed to the woman suffrage movement, he held that it would be a strong argument in favour of it if, on a subject affecting the position of women more than that of men, an opportunity were afforded to make their voices heard on this subject. His last point was what was the position of the Bill in this House? He saw the right hon. Gentleman, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who took a great interest in this question, present. He asked him what was the position which the Government meant to take up in relation to the future progress of this measure? Last year had shown that Bills brought in by private Members were suddenly adopted as Government measures. With their large majority the Government could "star" a whole lot of private Bills. If this was to be made a Government Bill, then its treatment in the House and in the Standing Committee would be very different from what it otherwise would be. He knew that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Wolverhampton was of opinion that there was a class of measures which ought not to go to the Standing Committees upstairs; but were the Government changing their views on that question as they had done on others? If ever there was a limit which ought to be drawn about sending Bills to the Standing Committees, it was reached by this Bill. Whilst he honoured and respected the conscientious conviction of people who believed that this measure was calculated to secure the well-being of the middle and other classes of the country, he trusted that they would do him, and those who agreed with him, the credit of believing that their opposition to this measure was equally conscientious. Conscience, after all, was not the sole possession of hon. Members on one side of the House; and it was because this Bill was against his conscientious convictions that he opposed it.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER (Wolverhampton, E.) said that there were many Members on both sides of the House who supported this measure, but were influenced by no desire in any way to lessen the moral law of marriage or the purity or the sanctity of domestic life. They held conscientious opinions, however, that this reform ought to be carried out on grounds of common justice, believing that its moral effect would in the end be beneficial, and not injurious. The Government were going to adopt exactly the same course in respect of this Bill as was adopted by their Conservative predecessors when in office with a large majority. The decision would be left to the judgment of the House. The Government wished to ascertain what was the unbiassed judgment of the majority of the House, and when they knew what the majority was, it would be time enough to discuss what future steps the Government intended to take. He congratulated the noble Lord who moved the rejection of the Bill upon having worthily filled the place of his distinguished and eloquent brother as an opponent of this legislation. But he took exception to a good deal of what the noble Lord said as to the past and also with reference to the future. The hon. Member who introduced the Bill had given a history of the movement, but many of the speeches delivered against the measure had assumed that this was a modern attempt to deal with a grievance which had almost been created in the lifetime of hon. Members present. The beginning of this legislation was not a pleasant chapter to contemplate. The original measure was brought in at the instigation of an ex-Prime Minister to meet the case of a noble Duke who had married two sisters. The measure was brought in by Lord Lyndhurst in 1835 to prevent that marriage from being declared void. According to the noble Lord that and all other such marriages were absolutely void; but that was not so. They were voidable, but if no legal proceedings were taken to declare them void in the lifetime of both the husband and the wife, they were regarded as valid. When Lord Lyndhurst brought in that Bill to meet a particular case, what he proposed to do was to legalise all preceding marriages already contracted, provided that no legal proceedings had been taken within a certain time. The two eminent Bishops who conducted the negotiations with the then Lord Chancellor did not object to this proposal, provided that these marriages were rendered absolutely void for the future. On such a foundation as that the attempt was now being made to build a great structure of morality.

LORD R. CECIL: What I pointed out to the House was that the Act, the secret history of which I know nothing, had nothing to do with marriage with a deceased wife's sister. It dealt with marriages between persons within the prohibited degrees of affinity, and that only.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said that they were very astute draughtsmen in those days. They knew how to draw a Bill to carry out what they wanted. The dissatisfaction with that legislation lasted ten or twelve years, and the upshot was that the Ministry of the day advised Her Majesty to issue a Royal Commission, whose Report was almost the only authoritative statement of the case available. That Report was deserving of the greatest consideration and to be received as an authority of the greatest weight. It was not a Commission filled with advocates, but the duties of the inquiry were entrusted to men outside the House of Commons who were experts and impartial. It was a great example of how a Commission should be formed. He would just like to tell the House the names of the Members of this Commission. [AN HON MEMBER: What was the date?] The date of the Commission was 1847, the first Act being passed in 1835. At the head of the Commission was Dr. Lonsdale, Bishop of Lichfield for many years, a great scholar and a man who was competent to form an opinion on any question of theology or ecclesiastical law. Mr Justice Vaughan Williams, a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, was also a member of the Commission, as was Dr. Lushington, one of the most eminent ecclesiastical lawyers and a most eminent Judge. In addition there were Mr. Stuart Worley, who afterwards became Solicitor-General, Sir Andrew Rutherford, afterwards Lord Rutherford, and Sir Anthony Bateman, who was a lay member of the Commission and a distinguished man in his day. That Commission dealt with and gave its opinion on the question which they were now discussing. That was in the year 1847, and the whole trend and force of opinion in this country from that time till now had strengthened the opinion which they then expressed. They gave their opinion as to what was the attitude of the Roman Catholic Church, of the Protestant States of Europe, of the American States, of the Greek Church, especially in Russia, of the Jews, of the Nonconformists, and of the Church of England upon this matter. He would give their findings on this question. They said that the various bodies of Dissenters in England did not seem to entertain the opinion that these marriages were interdicted by Holy Writ, or that they were in themselves reprehensible. The Commissioners said they had been particularly desirous of ascertaining the opinion of the Church of England on two questions, namely, whether marriage with a deceased wife's sister was prohibited by the law of God, and if not, whether it ought to be interdicted on any other ground. The number of clergy was very great so that they could not collect the opinions of all of them, but they said they were satisfied that a great diversity of opinion prevailed among the clergy of the Established Church on these questions. They believed that many of the clergy did not believe that such marriages were prohibited by the law of God, but that the majority objected to them either on this or some other ground. He need not trouble the House with various other topics with which that Report dealt, but they considered that if it was an existing evil, it was a greatly continuing one and that the number of these marriages must amount to thousands. The evil was so great that it was far beyond all doubt that if such marriages celebrated in England and Ireland were annulled it would disastrously affect the whole community. They considered that the feeling against these marriages was in a great measure founded upon a vague, uninformed assumption that they were prohibited by God's Word, which was to be found in the Scripture, and which was enforced by the law of the Church. There was one other remark which he might mention in connection with the speech of his hon. friend the Member for Barnard Castle. The Commission reported that the number of these marriages was small in the upper class, considerably greater in the middle class, while in the lower classes the evidence showed that these attachments and marriages were of frequent occurrence. The Commission found that the relations and friends of both parties had in some cases readily assented to such marriages and in other cases had not hesitated to sanction and give approval to a connection of this kind already formed. Among the poorer classes the Commission said they believed that in the great majority of the cases in which the sister of the deceased wife became an inmate of the household, the end of such a state of things was marriage or concubinage. The first incident naturally produced the second. When a poor man with a family had the misfortune to lose his wife some assistance in his domestic concerns became essential, and that was assistance for which he could not afford to pay. This assistance must be rendered immediately and through the circumstances of the case devolved upon the sister of the deceased wife, and once she became a permanent inmate of the house, the result the Commission declared in this class of life was almost invariably cohabitation. On a review of this subject in all its bearings, they expressed the belief, that the statute prohibiting these marriages had failed to attain its object, and they doubted whether any other such law would be effective. That was the unbiassed opinion of what one might call seven eminent Judges. There certainly was no Nonconformist on the tribunal, which was eminently representative of the Church of England. He thought therefore that the noble Lord was not entitled to quote the opinion of the distinguished men to whom he had alluded as final, and he hoped before he sat down to show that the view of the hon. Member for Ashford, that the present law—Lord Lyndhurst's Act of 1835—met with the approval of all the Christian Churches was incorrect.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said he had never alluded to Lord Lyndhurst's Act at all.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER replied that he had only montioned Lord Lyndhurst's Act because it was the law which at present regulated this question.

MR. LAURENCE HARDY said that he was referring to a time 200 years before Lord Lyndhurst. He was alluding to the ancient provisions which prevailed up to the time of Henry VIII., and he was carrying the history of the question further back than the mover of the Bill had done. He mentioned the fact that at the time of which he was speaking all the churches held these marriages to be illegal.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER said he was dealing with what might be called the foundation of the noble Lord's argument. The noble Lord had said that there must be a law regulating human marriages and that he believed that to be the foundation of civilisation. He (Sir Henry Fowler) agreed with the noble Lord, but he submitted that that law must be founded on a distinct and definite prohibition to be found in Holy Writ or upon some overwhelming public necessity which demanded prohibition. Of course this House would be a most improper place to discuss whether or not there was a Divine prohibition, but he might say that there was no consensus of opinion on the subject. He would not question the fact that there was a large body of authority in the Church of England which regarded these marriages as prohibited by Holy Scripture, but there was also a large section existing in the Church of England which did not agree with that opinion and regarded such marriages as allowable. He found that while the opinion of the noble Lord had been held by high authorities the contrary opinion had been held by Archbishops and Bishops of the Church of England and by other dignitaries of the Church.

LORD R. CECIL: Not by living Bishops of the Church of England.

*SIR HENRY FOWLER replied that some were living and some were dead. He was only quoting that fact against the idea that it was the universal opinion of the Church of England that these marriages were illegal, and in order to show that that was not the opinion of a large and influential section inside the Church of England as well as of some people outside whose opinions carried weight. It certainly was not the opinion of the Episcopal Church of America; it was not the opinion of the Churches in the Colonies, and many of his Nonconformist friends would contradict him if he was wrong when he said that the opinion of the great mass of the Nonconformist Churches of this country was against there being a Divine prohibition of these marriages. The last time that the question came up it was said that the Church of Scotland prohibited these marriages, but two eminent members of the Church of Scotland who were two of its greatest modern divines, Dr. Chalmers and Dr. Norman McLeod, had both expressed the opinion that these marriages were not prohibited by the Bible, and the same opinion was held by the Presbyterian Churches of America and Canada. The Roman Catholic Church could not be quoted as condemning these marriages as immoral, or as forbidden by Scripture. Cardinal Wiseman, one of the greatest casuists in the Church of Rome, who was examined before the Commission of 1847, said that the Roman Catholic Church did not hold that these marriages were prohibited by Scripture; it was a matter of ecclesiastical legislation. Dispensations were granted from a regulation of the Church and not from the prohibition of Scripture. From this it was clear that the Roman Church did not regard these marriages as immoral. If a marriage was morally wrong, there could be no dispensation. No authority could grant dispensation from the Seventh Commandment. Cardinal Wiseman said that he had had many cases, and he had never known a dispensation to be refused. Then they were referred to the Greek Church, and it was said that these marriages were prohibited by that Church. That was not so. It was only prohibited to the members of the Greek Church but not to others. A Russian subject who was a member of the Greek Church could not contract such a marriage, but any other Russian subject could if he was permitted by the law of his own Church. That was exactly what the supporters of this Bill wanted. There was no desire to interfere with the law of the Church of England. He repudiated entirely any such idea, and he would be no party to forcing any clergyman to celebrate these marriages if it was against his conscience to do so. He would not force any man's conscience. What they said was that if a man was a member of the Church of England and thought that that Church prohibited these marriages, let him hold to the law of his Church. In other words, let those who regarded these marriages as wrong avoid them. But there was no reason why they should enforce that opinion upon Nonconformists and a large number of English Churchmen who did not believe such marriages to be wrong, and there were a large number of members of the English Church who did not believe them to be illegal or improper. What were the circumstances which rendered it impossible for the husband's first wife's sister to live in the house without marriage under present circumstances? He thought the answer to the Archbishops and Bishops who opposed this change would be found in the Report of the Royal Commission, and it was a question which must be answered by common sense. But some speakers had said that there was no evidence whatever that this difficulty arose or that there was any demand for the Bill. It was said by the Bishop of London that the necessity did not arise in the East End of London. He had no doubt that the Bishop of London's remarks were based upon what be believed to be the facts, but there were other Bishops and clergymen in manufacturing towns who expressed precisely the opposite opinion. Dr. Hook, when vicar of Leeds, was converted to the necessity of legalising these marriages in the interests of morality by his work among the poor. He thought it was Dr. Hook who convinced Mr. Gladstone to seeing the necessity that this change should be made in the law, in the interests of the morality of the poor in large towns, where immense populations were gathered together. The present law was a hardship upon the poor. He did not think anybody could deny that. An hon. Member had asked why should the minority lead the majority, and had quoted the words of his right hon. friend the late Minister for Education, "minorities must suffer." He did not think minorities should suffer when Parliament could relieve them. Why, it was asked, should they relieve parents from the consequences of their own sins and misconduct? But it was not the parents who were punished. How about the children of these marriages? They were stamped with the badge of bastardy. They were injured socially and personally, and throughout their careers it was a disadvantage to those who wished to rise in the world to have this blot on their names. The noble Lord had asked why we should follow the example of our Colonies. That was a new Imperialism. At present there was not a single self-governing Colony where this law had not been abrogated. Certainly in Canada, Australia, and New Zealand these marriages were allowed. He was amazed to see hon. Gentlemen opposite taking credit for the Colonial Marriages Act of last year, when that question had been a serious matter between the Mother Country and the Colonies for many years. How was it possible to condemn on the grounds of morality marriages which had been approved by the Crown under the advice of Lord Beaconsfield, Lord Salisbury, and Mr. Gladstone? There could not be two moral standards for the Empire — what was morally right in Toronto, Melbourne, and Sydney, could not be morally wrong in London. But last year's Act had intensified the evil. It had enabled people who were rich enough to pay the expense to go to these countries, acquire a domicile and get married and return to this country, whilst if those marriages took place in this country they were illegal. The thing was farcical. What had been the history of this Bill in Parliament? It had passed Second Reading in the House of Commons eighteen times, and it had been passed in the House of Lords. But to defeat it there had been displayed organised, unreasoning obstruction of the most determined kind in Grand Committee. He thought the Government would have a duty to discharge in reference to that question if the Bill were sent to a Standing Committee; and if the House adopted, as he hoped it would adopt before Easter, the Resolutions of which the Prime Minister had given notice with reference to the proceedings of Standing Committees, he thought they would then provide a remedy for obstruction of that character. It was a singular fact that on this question, upon which several speakers had said there was no public interest, the largest majority and the biggest division ever recorded was when the late Prime Minister was Leader of the House; and after every general election of modern times, 1880, 1884, and 1900, there had been increasing majorities in its favour. Many said they did not put this question to their constituents, but he did not believe in a Member of Parliament being a mere delegate to register the mandates of those whom they represented. They represented their constituents on all questions, and they had given no vote either this session or last which did not represent the feeling of their constituents, and he thought all the votes that had been given on this question in the past had been the opinion of the constituents. The great leaders of this House in the past, irrespective of politics — Lord John Russell, Sir George Cornewall Lewis, and Lord Palmerston—had been in favour of this change; and Mr. Gladstone, whom Lord Salisbury called the great Christian statesman, and who would never have supported anything which he believed to be immoral, or not sanctioned by Christianity, had felt bound to do what he could to assist a similar Bill. The noble Lord opposite had spoken of the weakening of the law of marriage and the growing materialism and love of pleasure of working men. He did not think that was confined to one class. He did not think the law of marriage had been weakened in one class exclusively. He agreed that the disclosures of the Divorce Court were a disgrace to this country; but admitting all that, he did not think that the working men of the country were deteriorating. He believed that never in our history had there been so large a number of working men belonging to the Christian Churches, doing what they could for their fellow-men; and he believed that Christianity as a whole was stronger in the working classes than it had been for many a long year. At any rate, Parliament had no right to deprive them of what they believed to be their legal and moral rights for fear of some imaginary danger. For these reasons, remembering that this question had been before them for a long series of years, he thought it was time that this controversy now ended. He trusted that the majority that afternoon would be large enough really to give the quietus to this perpetual opposition, by but a small section, to a measure on which the country had set its mind.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put;" but Mr. Speaker withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

MR. EVELYN CECIL (Aston Manor) expressed his surprise that the hon. Member should desire to move the closure at so early a stage. His action was the more significant from the fact that the right hon. Gentleman opposite, in stating the views of His Majesty's Government, had been anything but clear. It was said that the Government were going to leave the question free to the House to decide, and afterwards to determine what they would do. That was exactly what happened last year. On two occasions last year the Government did the same thing, and at a later stage gave facilities to two Bills which were closured after having been discussed for a short time on a Friday afternoon. Anybody who opposed any Bill in this House had a right to object to such a procedure, and, in view of the right hon. Gentleman statements, the question became much more than the simple one of whether they should divide against this Bill or not. There was a great deal in the right hon. Gentleman's speech which required reply. The right hon. Gentleman had said that children of such marriages were most to be pitied; that they were branded as illegitimate; that it was not their fault and that the House should remove such a stigma. But the right hon. Gentleman's argument applied to every other illegitimate child in the Kingdom, and therefore it was not an argument which in his opinion could be used with effect for a single moment. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the history of this question. With regard to that he wished to say that the whole common law of this country from earliest times had prohibited these marriages. There was no doubt about that. There was no question about it for many centuries. It was not until the 15th century that any dispensation was granted to enable such marriages to take place. If hon. Members consulted history they would find the common law had always been against these marriages, and that the Act passed in the reign of Henry VIII. was merely declaratory. So far as the Royal Commission of 1847 was concerned, it only showed that there were two opinions throughout. What was to be deduced from history was that the original standpoint from which these marriages were prohibited remained; that they had only been allowed by dispensation in the Roman Catholic Church; and that no law in this country had established any different conclusions. Then, with regard to the Colonial arguments of the right hon. Gentleman, he did not wish to dwell upon them except to say that they had no logical bearing because of the present condition of the law. The circumstances surrounding this kind of legislation were very different from the broad question of political and Imperial unity of which the right hon. Gentleman spoke. This was a matter of opinion which did not involve any great political objects, and in view of the Colonial Marriages Act, passed last year, those arguments had ceased to have any effect. He agreed with the right hon. Gentleman in respect of the argument of social purity, and perhaps it weighed with him more than anything else. Instances had been truly quoted where the deceased wife's sister was the best person to come to attend to the poor widower's children. Touching pictures had been drawn of what had taken place and of how much could be done by the sister in the case of a man so afflicted. He agreed with that argument. He thought the sister was the best person to take charge of the children. But then the right hon. Gentleman the member for the Bordesley Division had said that bearing this fact in mind he could not understand anybody objecting to this Bill, and that the Bill was not compulsory. Why, supposing a sister of the deceased wife went to take charge of the children of a widower, it went far to put the widower under compulsion to marry that sister-in-law or to send her away. ["No."] If the man wished to do neither, but merely to keep her in his house to look after his children, he would not everywhere be free from the risk of gossip and scandal. That was one of the difficulties that would arise in the case of the widower who wished to have his sister-in-law with him. From the point of view of the wife there were also grave objections. To her the idea that her sister might be her successor might be repulsive. If the wives of this country were asked whether they would like to regard their sisters as their possible substitutes the replies they would give would be, he believed, in the negative. He would suggest that the Government might very well shelve this question until the question of women's suffrage was decided, and then they would be able to get what was the real view of women on the subject. He ventured to say that it would be found to be very different from the view expressed by the majority of Members of this House at the present time. He believed that that would apply to women as a whole, whether they were rich or poor. Some people said that in certain districts there was a tendency to desire to marry the deceased wife's sister, but in East London at any rate there seemed to be no such tendency. There were many rich and many poor who had no desire for this Bill; there were many more who were absolutely indifferent on the subject. There was no public opinion on the matter. During the general election he was not asked a single question on the subject in his constituency, nor had he had a single letter on the question for years. The introduction and passage of such a measure as this would distinctly tend to destroy the indefinable sanctity of the relationship which now existed between brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law. In not too scrupulous families it could not, in his opinion, make for social purity for a man to know that his sister-in-law was a kind of Parliamentary alternative to his wife. That was the feeling which appealed most earnestly to those who were opposed to this proposed legislation. This Bill infringed the simple principle of the marriage law that a man should not marry any of his wife's relations any more than he should marry any of his own, and it infringed that principle for the benefit of a few only. Why should they make this change? If it was made they could not stop at the deceased wife's sister. If a man might marry his deceased wife's sister, why not her niece? And if a man married a widow and she died, why not her daughter by another husband? There was no necessary limit. And how about a divorced wife's sister? This was only a beginning by which might be introduced much more serious breaches into the marriage principle. There was one more argument against the Bill. It was that this Bill was made retrospective. He could not understand the justification of legislating for law breakers. Men had broken the law and married their deceased wife's sister, and the House was now asked to legislate in order that their misdeeds might be put right. He should not have approved of this Bill even if it had not been retrospective, but it seemed to him infinitely worse to bring up a Bill containing a retrospective provision which was entirely opposed to wise and judicious legislation. Upon all these grounds he resisted the Bill. He feared that in some cases it would affect the familiar relations which had hitherto existed so happily, and diminish the confidence and innocence of the domestic happiness which the English nation enjoyed.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY (Devonshire, Honiton) congratulated the House on the very high level at which the discussion had been maintained. He contended that the Bill was intended to overthrow a state of things which had prevailed in this country ever since the introduction of Christianity, and to set up something very different. It went to the deepest feelings of society. He submitted that such a change ought not to be brought about without the strongest evidence of its necessity, and of a very urgent demand on behalf of those who were specially interested. The House had been told that it was demanded especially by the working-classes, but there had been very little evidence of that during the debate. One representative of the Labour Party had spoken, but he told the House that there was a great divergence of opinion among the Members of that Party.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON said he had made no such statement in the course of his speech.

SIR JOHN KENNAWAY apologised for having misinterpreted the words of the hon. Member, but pointed out that he had had a very attenuated support from the Members of his Party during the afternoon. It was said that for many years there had been a strong demand for legislation of this kind, but though in many Parliaments a large number of Members had voted in favour of this Bill their opinion had never been translated into an enactment. The House had been told that the religious feeling of the country was in its favour. Some of the greatest Christian men who ever sat in this or the other House had contended to the utmost of their ability against the measure, because they were deeply convinced that it would be most dangerous to the moral welfare of the people. He had heard of the difficulty of the working man who was unfortunate enough to lose the partner of his joys and sorrows, and he fully admitted the difficulty; but there was also the argument on the other side that whilst in some cases a man might marry his deceased wife's sister, in many more cases it might result in the wife's sister being driven from the home. What made him anxious in the matter was the fact that those Colonies and America which had adopted such legislation had gone very much further in making regulations which tended to break down the sanctity of marriage. He feared that if this barrier were broken down in England there would be danger of the sanctity of marriage being less respected. If this measure was so urgently wanted, why was it not brought forward by a Minister, and supported by all the weight and authority of the Government? The right hon. Member for Wolverhampton had spoken earnestly in the matter, and perhaps after what he had said the right hon. Gentleman would bring the matter before his colleagues.

SIR BRAMPTON GURDON rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 255; Noes, 40. (Division List, No. 14.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. Hubert
Bellairs, Carlyon
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Blake, Edward
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn Sir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn J. A (Worc.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birmingh'm
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hooper, A. G.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred

Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G.(Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lee,Arthur H(Hants.,Fareham
Leese,Sir JosephF.(Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederick C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G Croydon(Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan,J. Lloyd(Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien,Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James(Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
Parker,Sir Gilbert(Gravesend)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps,Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps,J. Wynford(Pembroke
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomson,W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart(Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North
Whitehead, Rowland
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt Hn.SirAlex.F.
Ambrose, Robert
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bowles, G. Stewart
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt.Hon VictorC.W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duffy, William J.
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Halpin, J.
Hardy,Laurence (Kent,Ashford
Hervey,F.W. F(Bury S Edm'ds
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt.Hon. Sir JohnH.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Lundon, W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down,S.
M'Kean, John
Meehan, Patrick A.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murphy, John
Nield, Herbert
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Pease,Herbert Pike(Darlington
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Reddy, M.
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt. HnJ.G.(Oxf'd Univ.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Robert Cecil and Sir Frederick Banbury.

Question put accordingly—"That the word 'now' stand part of the Question."

The House divided:—Ayes, 269; Noes, 34. (Division List No. 15.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. Hubert
Bellairs, Carlyon
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Blake, Edward
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Ches.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Wor
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birm'gh'm
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancr'sW
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Gr'st'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A. H.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.
Henry, Charles S.
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. E'm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
McCallum, John M.
McCrae, George
McMicking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morpeth, Viscount
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Raphael, Herbert H.

Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield,Ecclesall)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild,Hon.Lionel Walter
Rowlands, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,David Alfred(Merthyr
Thomson,W.Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtney T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn (Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.Hn.Sir AlexF.
Ambrose, Robert
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Garry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish,Rt.Hn.Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Delany, William
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Halpin, J.
Hardy,Laurence (Kent, Ashf'd)
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway,Rt.Hn. Sir John H.
Lundon, W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah(Down,S.)
McKean, John
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Nield, Herbert
O'Kelly,James (Rosc'mm'n, N.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot,Rt.Hn.J.G.(O'f'd Univ.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Robert Cecil and Sir Francis Powell.

Main Question put.

The House divided :—Ayes, 263 ; Noes, 34. (Division List, No. 16.)

AYES.

Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. Herbert
Bellairs, Carlyon
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Blake, Edward
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Rt.Hn.SirJ.T.(Chesh.)
Bryce, J. Annan.
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton,Rt.Hn.Sydney Charles
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chamberlain,RtHn.J.A.(Worc.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T.Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Collings, Rt.Hn.J.(Birmingh'm
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancras,W
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett,C H (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.

Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin (Walsall
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W,
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gill, A, H.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Greenwood Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hambro, Charles Eric
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam,W.E. (Derbyshire,N.E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Henry, Charles S.
Hervey,F.W.F.(BuryS.Edm'ds
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Lee,ArthurH.(Hants.,Fareham
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
MacIver, David (Liverpool)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
McCallum, John M.
McCrae, George
McMicking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. J.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morpeth, Viscount
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O Brien,Kendal (Tipperary,Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow,W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Grady, J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps,Col. Ivor (S'thampton
Philipps,J.Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards,T.F.(Wolverhampton
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S.(Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild, Hon. LionelWalter
Rowland, J.
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley,Hn.A.Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A.(Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor,Theodore C.(Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomson, W.Mitchell- (Lanark)
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips.
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarthen
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, P. W. (St.Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hon, C. B. Stuart

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Ambrose, Robert
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Delaney, William
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers
Farrell James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Halpin, J.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Lundon, W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
McKean, John
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Nield, Herbert
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Robert Cecil and Sir Francis Powell.

Bill read a second time.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the Bill be committed to the Standing Committee on Law, etc."—(*Sir Brampton Gurdon.*)

*MR. TALBOT asked why the Bill should not follow the normal procedure. His right hon. friend the Member for Sheffield, a supporter of the Bill, before the Select Committee last year, in dealing with this particular Bill, said it was the least desirable kind of Bill to send before a Standing Committee. Were they to undertand that all Bills, where the Members in charge desired their reference to a Standing Committee, were to be so referred?

SIR HENRY FOWLER said the hon. Gentleman had asked him a question which it was impossible for him to answer. The Committee on Procedure had presented their Report, and his right hon. friend the Prime Minister had given notice of a series of resolutions, and had intimated that he would take the earliest opportunity possible to deal with that Report, and the whole question of Grand Committees. Meantime, he could only act on the law as it now stood. It was no secret that what the Select Committee proposed was that in the normal condition of affairs every Bill, unless the House otherwise ordered, should go to Grand Committee; and in order to make that plan workable—it was unworkable before, under the *regime* of obstruction—they proposed to ask the House to give the Chairman of the Committee the same power that the Chairman of Committee of the whole House possessed—in fact, that the whole of the procedure of Grand Committee should be similar to the procedure of Committee of the whole House.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 257; Noes, 41. (Division List No. 17)

AYES.

Agnew, George William
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Astbury, John Meir
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beaumont, Hon. Hubert
Bellairs, Carlyon
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Blake, Edward
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Bright, J. A.
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brodie, H. C.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Chesh.
Bryce, J. Annan
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles

Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A. (Wor.
Chance, Frederick William
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collings, Rt. Hn. J. (Birming'm
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancr's, W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grins'd
Cory, Clifford John
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Craig, Herbert J. (Tynemouth)
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Elibank, Master of
Essex, R. W.
Evans, Samuel T.
Everett, R. Lacey
Fell, Arthur
Fenwick, Charles
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir Henry
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Gulland, John W.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Hart-Davies, T.
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Henry, Charles S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Hornby, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Houston, Robert Paterson
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jordan, Jeremiah
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kekewich, Sir George
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kitson, Rt. Hon. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareham
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lewis, John Herbert
Lough, Thomas
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Cropdon (Launceston)
Marnham, F. L.
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murray, James
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Newnes, Sir George (Swansea)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Grady, J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Philipps, Col. Ivor (Southampton
Philipps, J. Wynford (Pembroke
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pullar, Sir Robert
Radford, G. H.
Randles, Sir John Scurrah
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Rees, J. D.
Richards, T. F. (Wolverhampton
Richardson, A.
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Roberts, S. (Sheffield, Ecclesall)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Ropner, Colonel Sir Robert
Rose, Charles Day
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Hrebert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shackleton, David James
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Stuart, James (Sunderland)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Theodore C. (Radcliffe)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thorne, William
Thornton, Percy M.
Tomkinson, James
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Ure, Alexander
Verney, F. W.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C,
Weir, James Galloway
White, J. D. (Dumbartonshire)
White, Luke (York, E. R.)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarthen

Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir William Brampton Gurdon and Mr. Arthur Henderson.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex F.
Ambrose, Robert
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bull, Sir William James
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Delany, William
Farrell, James Patrick
Ffrench, Peter
Fletcher, J. S.
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Halpin, J.
Hardy, Laurence (Kent, Ashford
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. E'm'ds
Hogan, Michael
Joyce, Michael
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
King, Sir Henry Seymour (Hull)
Lundon, W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
M'Kean, John
Meagher, Michael
Meehan, Patrick A.
Morpeth, Viscount
Murphy, John
Nield, Herbert
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Power, Patrick Joseph
Reddy, M.
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson, W. Mitchell- (Lanark)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Lord Robert Cecil and Mr. Talbot.

LIQUOR TRAFFIC (LOCAL VETO) BILL.

Order for Second Reading read.

*MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby) moved the Second Reading of the Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill, which he said was carried by the large majority of 227 last session. The Prime Minister had spoken in favour of it, and practically all the members of the Government had voted for it. He hoped that either facilities would be given for the Bill, or that its provisions would be embodied in the coming Licensing Bill. He begged to move.

Motion made and Question proposed, "That the Bill be now read a second time."—(*Mr. Leif Jones.*)

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said the hon. Member had given a very singular reason for asking the House to give assent to the Bill. It was that the Bill had already been passed last session, and therefore it ought now to be passed at once without discussion.

MR. LEIF JONES: I did not say that.

MR. CLOUGH rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put," but MR. SPEAKER withheld his assent, and declined then to put that Question.

And, it being Five of the clock, the debate stood adjourned.

Debate to be resumed upon Friday next.

POISONS AND PHARMACY.

Bill to regulate the sale of certain poisonous substances; and to amend the Pharmacy Acts, ordered to be brought in by Mr. Herbert Samuel and Sir Edward Strachey.

POISONS AND PHARMACY BILL.

"To regulate the sale of certain poisonous substances; and to amend the Pharmacy Acts," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 61.]

Whereupon MR. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to Standing Order No. 3.

Adjourned at three minutes after Five o'clock till Monday next.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Monday, 25th February, 1907.

The Viscount Templetown took the Oath.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The Lord Chancellor acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with :—Borax Consolidated [H.L.]; Colne Valley Water [H.L.]; Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) [H.L.]; Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) [H.L.]; Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) [H.L.]; North British Railway [H.L.]; Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation [H.L.]; Oxford and District Tramways [H.L.]; Portishead District Water [H.L.]; Royal Insurance Company [H.L.]; Staveley Coal and Iron Company [H.L.]; West Yorkshire Tramways [H.L.]; Medway Lower Navigation [H L.]; Newquay and District Water [H.L.]; Southend Water [H.L.]; West Riding Tramways [H.L.]; Wisbech Water [H.L.].

Also the Certificate that no Standing Orders are applicable to the following Bill :—Baines' Name—(Petition for Bill).

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Galwey's Divorce Bill [H.L.]. A witness ordered to attend on the Second Reading of the Bill.

Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment Bill [H.L.]. The Chairman of Committees informed the House that the promoters do not intend to proceed further with the Bill. Ordered that the Bill be not further proceeded with.

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge, and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill [H.L.]; Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Birmingham Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Birmingham Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill [H.L.]; Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill [H.L.]; Coventry Corporation Water Bill [H.L.]; Devonport Corporation Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Harrison's Patent Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill [H.L.]; Humber Conservancy Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Middlesbrough Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

St. Neot's Urban District Council Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Selsey Water and Gas Bill [H.L.]. To be read 2^{a}, To-morrow.

Society of Apothecaries of London Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed.

Southend-on-Sea Corporation Bill [H.L.]; Southport, Birkdale, and West Lancashire Water Board Bill [H.L.]. Read 2^{a}, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Tees Conservancy Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª, and committed.

Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill [H.L.]; Tyne Improvement Bill [H.L.]; Tynemouth Corporation (Water) Bill [H.L.]; Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill [H.L.]. Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

North British Railway Bill [H.L.]. Moved, that leave be given to present a petition of the promoters of the Buckhaven Dock Provisional Order praying to be heard by Counsel against the North British Railway Bill; agreed to.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

NAVY (ESTIMATES, 1906–1907).

Programme of shipbuilding, repairs, maintenance, etc.; Statement showing the probable effect on the programme due to re-appropriation of cash provision, etc.

ARMY.

Memorandum on the Military Forces in the United Kingdom; approximate estimate of the cost of the proposed Territorial Force.

MINES AND QUARRIES (INUNDATION OF WATER AT CARADOG VALE COLLIERY).

Reports to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Sir D. Brynmor-Jones, K.C., M.P., and F. A. Gray, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, on the circumstances attending the inundation of water which occurred at Caradog Vale Colliery on 26th June, 1906.

Presented (by Command), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BOARD OF EDUCATION.

Draft Order in Council amending the Order of 7th August, 1900, providing for the establishment of a consultative committee.

INTERMEDIATE EDUCATION (IRELAND).

Time Table of Examinations for the year 1907.

POST OFFICE (STATUTORY RULES AND ORDERS, 1907).

No. 65. (Money Orders.) The Postal Order (Foreign and Colonial) Amendment (No. 2) Regulations, 1907, dated 30th January, 1907.

BUILDING SOCIETIES.

Twelfth Annual Report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Acts; with abstract of the annual accounts and statements of societies, for the year 1906.

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES, WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION SCHEMES, INDUSTRIAL AND PROVIDENT SOCIETIES, AND TRADE UNIONS.

Reports of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, for the year ended 31st December, 1906.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER.

Account of receipts and disbursements of the Duchy of Lancaster in the year ended 21st December, 1906, also a separate account of the capital of the said Duchy to the same date.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, under Section 2 of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899:—

That, having regard to Section 16 (2) of the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, the provisions of the Electric Supply Corporation Order; Part II. of the Aberdeen Corporation Order; and Clause 65 of the Dundee Corporation Order, ought not to be dealt with by Provisional Order under that Act.

That the provisions of the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited, Order; the Royal Bank of Scotland Order; and Clause 34 of the Leith Harbour and Docks Order, are of such a character that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order.

That, the Buckhaven Dock Order; the Glasgow Corporation Order; and the Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Order, raise such questions of policy and principle that they ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order.

That, save as aforesaid, the Draft Provisional Orders be allowed to proceed, subject to such recommendations as we may hereafter make with respect to the several Orders.

Laid before the House (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

BANK OF ENGLAND.

Applications made by the First Lord of the Treasury and the Chancellor of the Exchequer to the Governor and Deputy-Governor of the Bank of England for advances to Government authorised by Parliament from 5th January, 1906, to 5th January, 1907, with Minutes of the Court of Directors thereon, and answers of the said Court thereto; delivered (pursuant to Act), and ordered to lie on the Table.

NEW BILL.

JUDICATURE BILL [H.L.].

A Bill to amend the law with respect to the Court of Appeal—Was presented by the Lord Chancellor. Read 1ª; and to be printed. (No. 5.)

House adjourned at half-past Four o'clock, till To-morrow half-past Ten o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Monday, 25th February, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

KING'S SPEECH (ANSWER TO ADDRESS).

The Comptroller of the Household reported His Majesty's Answer to the Address, as followeth—

"I have received with great satisfaction the loyal and dutiful expression of your thanks for the Speech with which I have opened the present Session of Parliament."

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bills, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:—North Staffordshire Railway Bill; North-East London Railway Bill; Neath, Pontardawe, and Brynamman Railway Bill.

Ordered, That the Bills be read a second time.

POST OFFICE SITES BILL (STANDING ORDERS APPLICABLE THERETO COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. SPEAKER laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, pursuant to the Order of the House of the 15th day of February, That, in the case of the following Bill, the Standing Orders which are applicable thereto have been complied with, viz.:—Post Office Sites Bill.

Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Maidstone Gas Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

Police and Sanitary Committee. Ordered, That the Committee of Selection do nominate a Committee, not exceeding twelve members, to be called the Police and Sanitary Committee, to whom shall be committed all Private Bills promoted by municipal and other local authorities by which it is proposed to create powers relating to police or sanitary regulations in conflict with, deviation from, or excess of the provisions of the general law.

Ordered, That Standing Orders 150 and 173A apply to all such Bills.

Ordered, That the Committee have power to send for persons, papers, and records.

Ordered, That four be the quorum of the Committee.

Ordered, That if the Committee shall report to the Committee of Selection that any Clauses of any Bill referred to them (other than Clauses containing police and sanitary regulations) are such as, having regard to the terms of reference, it is not in their opinion necessary or advisable for them to deal with, the Committee of Selection shall thereupon refer the Bill to a Select Committee who shall consider those Clauses and so much of the preamble of the Bill as relates thereto, and shall determine the expenditure (if any) to be authorised in respect of the parts of the Bill referred to them. That the Committee shall deal with the remaining Clauses of such Bill, and so much of the preamble as relates thereto, and shall determine the period and mode of repayment of any money authorised by the Select Committee to be borrowed and shall report the whole Bill to the House, stating in their Report what parts of the Bill have been considered by each Committee.

Ordered, That the Committee have power, if they so determine, to sit as two Committees, and in that event to apportion the Bills referred to the Committee between the two Committees, each of which shall have the full powers of, and be subject to the instructions which apply to, the undivided Committee, and that four be the quorum of each of the two Committees.—(*Mr. Herbert Samuel.*)

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill. Read the Third Time, and passed.

PETITIONS.

BRITISH MUSEUM.

Petition of Trustees of the British Museum, for grant in aid (King's Recommendation signified); referred to the Committee of Supply.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.

ECCLESIASTICAL ASSESSMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Return presented, relative thereto [ordered 18th July, 1906; *Mr. McCrae*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 45.]

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

Copy presented, of Report by the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords and the Chairman of Ways and Means in the House of Commons, under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, that they are of opinion that the Electric Supply Corporation Order, Part II. of the Aberdeen Corporation Order, and Clause 65 of the Dundee Corporation Order ought not to be dealt with by Provisional Order under that Act, and that the General Accident, Fire and Life Assurance Corporation (Limited) Order, the Royal Bank of Scotland Order, Clause 34 of the Leith Harbour and Docks Order, the Buckhaven Dock Order, the Glasgow Corporation Order, and the Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water Order ought to be dealt with by Private Bill and not by Provisional Order [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 46.]

MINES AND QUARRIES (INUNDATION OF WATER AT CARADOG VALE COLLIERY).

Copies presented, of Reports to the Secretary of State for the Home Department by Sir David Brynmor Jones, K.C., M.P., and F. A. Gray, one of His Majesty's Inspectors of Mines, on the circumstances attending an Inundation of Water which occurred at Caradog Vale Colliery on the 26th June, 1906 [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of Memorandum on the Military Forces in the United

Kingdom [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

ARMY.

Copy presented, of Approximate Estimate of the Cost of the Proposed Territorial Force [by Command]; to lie upon the Table.

LOCAL OPTION (COLONIES).

Return presented, relative thereto [Address 1st May, 1906; *Mr. Leif Jones*]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 47.]

DUCHY OF LANCASTER.

Accounts presented, for the year ended 21st December, 1906 [by Act]; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 48.]

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TALBE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Friendly Societies, Workmen's Compensation Schemes, Industrial and Provident Societies, and Trade Unions, Reports of the Chief Registrar for the year ending 31st December, 1906 [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 49].

Building Societies, Copy of Twelfth Annual Report by the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies of the Proceedings of the Registrars under the Building Societies Acts, etc. [by Act]; to be printed. [No. 50.]

BRITISH MUSEUM.

Account ordered, "of the income and expenditure of the British Museum (Special Trust Funds) for the year ending the 31st day of March, 1907; Return of the number of persons admitted to visit the Museum and the British Museum (Natural History) in each year from 1901 to 1906, both years inclusive; together with a statement of the progress made in the arrangement and description of the collections, and an account of objects added to them in the year 1906."—(*Mr. Rothschild.*)

REVENUE (COLLECTION OF TAXES).

Return ordered, "showing for each of the three Kingdoms (1) the amount charged for Income Tax, Land Tax, and Inhabited House Duty for the financial years 1905, 1906, and 1907; and (2) the amounts and percentage of the same collected in each country by the 31st day of January and the 28th day of February respectively in each of the said years (in continuation of Parliamentary Paper, No. 269, of Session 1906)."—(*Mr. McCrae.*)

WINES IMPORTED.

Return ordered, "showing the quantity of Wines, at the various degrees of strength, which were imported into the United Kingdom in 1906, from Spain, Portugal, Madeira, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, and other countries.'—(*Sir Frederick Banbury.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Confirmation of Shop Closing Orders.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he can state what period of time is usually involved in the process of confirming or rejecting closing orders made by Town Councils under the Shop Hours Act, 1904.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) No general estimate can be given. The time required depends on the special circumstances of each case, the simplicity of the order, the amount of opposition, and the care with which the statutory regulations have been followed.

Suppression of Atrocities in the Congo.

SIR GEORGE KEKEWICH (Exeter): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, whether any, and, if so, what, recent action has been taken by His Majesty's Government with a view to the suppression of the atrocities in the Congo State.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) His Majesty's Government have held that a remedy for the existing state of things in the Congo would be found if Belgium exercised her rights with regard to the Congo State, and if it was transferred to Belgium on proper conditions. In view, therefore, of the negotiations now taking place in Belgium, we have abstained from taking any action which was likely to prejudice a favourable result.

Agricultural Land in England and Wales.

MR. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what is the total acreage of agricultural land in England and Wales, classified as holdings above 1 acre and not exceeding 5 acres, holdings above 5 acres and not exceeding 50 acres, holdings above 50 acres and not exceeding 300 acres, and holdings above 300 acres respectively; and whether the respective proportion in each class of arable and permanent grass can be given.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The total area returned as under crops and grass in England and Wales in 1906 was 27,393,716 acres, but the Returns do not show the proportion of arable land and permanent grass in the different classes of holdings in that year. The latest available information of that nature relates to the year 1895, and the following table shows the number of holdings of each class in 1906 and the proportions of arable and pasture in each class in 1895.

Number of Agricultural Holdings in each of the under-mentioned Classes as returned upon the 4th June, 1906, in England and Wales, with the proportion in each Class of Arable Land and Permanent Grass in 1895.

Size of Holding.	Number of Holdings in 1906.	Proportion in each Class of Holding of Arable Land and Permanent Grass as in 1895.	
		Arable Land.	Permanent Grass.
		Per cent.	Per cent.
Above 1 and not exceeding 5 acres -	91,196	25·4	74·6
Above 5 and not exceeding 50 acres -	197,730	29·6	70·4
Above 50 and not exceeding 300 acres	127,758	44·8	55·2
Above 300 acres - - - - -	15,122	54·2	45·8
Total - - - - -	431,806	45·0	55·0

Imports of Beef and Mutton.

MR. JOHN O'CONNOR (Kildare, N.): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, what are the Returns of the imports into the United Kingdom of beef and mutton in hundredweights and their respective values for the years 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906, with the average imports and values of the same for the years 1891–5, 1896–1900, and 1901–5; and will he give a like Return of the quantities of butter and flax imported in the same years, with averages of values for above periods.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The following table will give the information desired:—

Quantities and Values of Beef, Mutton, Butter, and Flax imported into the United Kingdom in each of the years 1903, 1904, 1905, and 1906, with the Averages for the years 1891–1895, 1896–1900, and 1901–1905.

Years.	Beef.		Mutton.		Butter.		Flax.	
	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.	Quantity.	Value.
	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£	Cwts.	£
1903 - - - -	4,805,913	10,123,592	4,065,776	7,932,390	4,060,694	20,798,707	1,894,020	3,675,664
1904 - - - -	5,051,253	9,857,322	3,530,659	6,946,989	4,241,005	21,117,162	1,498,340	3,185,475
1905 - - - -	5,778,357	10,923,299	3,841,180	7,413,602	4,147,866	21,586,622	1,801,960	3,581,808
1906 - - - -	5,986,793	11,115,312	4,137,132	7,781,497	4,338,383	23,466,252	1,747,300	3,558,567
Average of—								
1891–1895 - -	2,711,805	5,599,502	2,154,345	4,100,120	2,409,317	12,802,379	1,668,760	2,765,772
1896–1900 - -	3,929,014	7,822,416	3,346,586	5,319,004	3,246,608	16,377,403	1,847,560	2,938,564
1901–1905 - -	5,050,556	10,245,550	3,771,165	7,236,135	4,025,478	20,665,316	1,634,800	3,291,467

Note.—Beef includes fresh and salted beef, and beef preserved otherwise than by salting.
Mutton includes fresh and preserved mutton.
Flax includes dressed and undressed flax and tow.

Position of Senior Officers whose Regiments are Disbanded.

Colonel LONG (Worcestershire, Evesham): To ask the Secretary of State for War, whether, in the case of senior officers who, in consequence of the reduction of the battalions to which they belonged, and their present age, are in such a position that, whereas before the reduction they were practically certain of promotion, further service, and eventual retirement on higher grades of pension, they will now be retired much earlier, possibly at the age of forty-four, special arrangements can be made to enable them to have personal prospects somewhat equal to what they have lost by the reduction, or some special consideration shown them in the form of compensation or increased pension on compulsory retirement.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) As regards the majors of the disbanded battalions, it has been decided that they are to be considered for promotion to half-pay lieutenant-colonelcies at the precise date at which they would have been promoted had their battalions not been disbanded. In the case of captains, the names of officers whose promotion appears to be unduly retarded are brought forward from time to time as opportunities offer for extra-regimental promotion. As regards the lieutenant-colonels they will be granted retired pay at £420 a year four years after the date of their appointment to the command of one of the disbanded battalions, if not otherwise provided for. In the meantime every effort is being made to provide for them, and four have already been given appointments, two being transferred to the command of battalions in other regiments and two having been granted extra-regimental employment.

Tinned Meat for the Army.

Mr. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): To ask the Secretary of State for War if he will give Returns showing the amount of tinned meat bought for the Army from Foreign Countries and from our own Colonies, respectively, for the last seven years.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) The figures are as follows:—Preserved meat bought from 31st March, 1899, to date.

	Colonial.	Foreign.
	lbs.	lbs.
31st March, 1899 to 31st May, 1902 (Close of War)	29,688,000	31,598,000
1st June, 1902, to 31st March, 1903	—	—
1st April, 1903, to 31st March, 1904	400,000	1,237,500
1st April, 1904, to 31st March, 1905	52,000	1,073,000
1st April, 1905, to 31st March, 1906	280,000	1,544,048
1st April, 1906, to date	26,988	2,135,733

Repair of Burial Ground at Balinakill.

Mr. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): To ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state whether any steps have yet been taken with a view to the repair and enlargement of the burial ground at Balinakill, in the parish of Uig, Island of Lewis.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) The district committee have petitioned the sheriff to have the burial ground at Balinakill closed by Order in Council. The case has been adjourned by the sheriff till the 17th May to allow of a new site being prepared. Sites have been selected, but have not yet been inspected by the local authority.

Defective Water Supply to Schools in the Island of Lewis.

MR. WEIR: To ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that on the 25th June last the Secretary for Scotland stated that the water supply for eighteen schools in the Island of Lewis was defective, will he state whether it is to be understood that at that time water was not laid on to any of these schools; and will he name any of these schools to which water has now been laid on and the names of those schools which still have a defective supply.

(*Answered by Mr. Sinclair.*) Improvements have been made at Bragar and Valtos. I am not aware whether those contemplated at Crowlista and Leumerava have been carried out. With this qualification the medical authorities are satisfied that there is no danger to health from the arrangements for supplying water to the schools, which are as good as circumstances permit.

Ordnance Survey Assistants' Salaries.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can state, with reference to the Treasury letter of May 24th, 1883, authorising the President of the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries to raise the salary of eighteen civil assistants employed on the Ordnance Survey to a maximum rate of 21s., and three of these to a maximum of 25s. per diem, in view of the fact that nearly one-half of the total staff of the Ordnance Survey is at present employed in Ireland, why not one of the Board's assistants and others in charge of duties at the headquarters division at Dublin is in receipt of these maximum rates; whether he will consider the claims of these officials to any existing or future vacancies in the list of the eighteen assistants referred to in the Treasury letter; and whether he will cause such regulations to be issued as will ensure the maximum rate being attained within a reasonable period.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) The Treasury letter referred to authorises the payment of from 12s. to 21s. a day to not more than eighteen assistants, of whom three may receive from 21s. to 25s. a day, but it does not provide that all these assistants should be paid the maximum rates, and various rates of pay between the authorised limits are accordingly allowed in the case of the assistants in question. Two of them are stationed at Dublin, and full consideration will be given to the claims of the staff there when any vacancies in list occur.

Irish Ordnance Survey.

MR. FIELD: To ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether he can state what proportion of the item of £50,100 entered in Class I. of the Civil Service Estimates, under the service Publication of maps prepared and revised, is chargeable to the preparation of Irish maps, and how much of the amount is actually expended in Ireland; whether he can say how much of the amount of £82,200, entered against Completion of the re-survey of Ireland on the 25-inch scale, is expended in Ireland; and whether, with reference to the item of £10,350, under F. Stores, etc., he can state what is the amount under this service expended in Ireland.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Strachey.*) Of the £50,100 provided in the Survey Estimate for 1906–7 for the publication of maps, £8,000 approximately is for the preparation of Irish maps, and about half that amount is actually spent in Ireland. Of the £82,200 provided for the completion of the re-survey of Ireland on the 25-inch scale, about £68,000 is expended in Ireland. Of the sum of £10,350 provided under Sub-head F for Stores, etc., about £400 is spent in Ireland, the greater part of the expenditure being special stores, which are only obtainable from a limited number of contractors. I may add that the gross expenditure of the survey as a whole for the year 1905–6 is divisible as follows—

	£
England - - -	104,590
Scotland - - -	23,000
Ireland - - -	95,880

The expenditure in respect of Ireland was nearly 43 per cent. of the whole.

Postmasters' Holidays.

Mr. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will take into consideration the claim of local postmasters to a complete holiday on Christmas Day.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) I regret that the exigencies of the public service will not admit of a complete holiday being given to postmasters on Christmas Day, but for work performed on that day a compensating holiday is allowed to them under certain conditions.

Stoke Newington Sorting Office.

Mr. HART-DAVIES: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he can see his way to converting the present sorting office at the corner of Brooke Road and High Street, Stoke Newington, into the general Stoke Newington post office; and whether his attention has been drawn to the inconvenient situation and inadequate accommodation at the present post office at 97, High Street, Stoke Newington.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) This matter is under consideration in connection with proposals for a re-arrangement of the post office accommodation at Stoke Newington.

S.s. "Moravia" and "Stag."

Mr. HAVELOCK WILSON (Middlesbrough): To ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the disappearance of the British steamers "Moravia" and "Stag," which vessels sailed from the port of Leith in the month of January, 1907; whether he can state if any alteration was made in the load lines of the "Moravia" and "Stag" during the last twelve months, and to what extent; and whether he will direct an inquiry to be held with regard to the loss of those two vessels with all hands.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) My attention has been called to the disappearance of the steamers "Moravia" and "Stag," and I have ordered a formal investigation to be held in each case. Pending the results of those inquiries I am not prepared to make any detailed statement in the matter.

Shipbuilding Disputes on the Clyde and Tees.

Mr. TOULMIN (Bury): To ask the President of the Board of Trade, whether the shipbuilding disputes on the Clyde and Tees affected the percentage of the unemployed in the last quarter of 1906; whether he can say to what degree; whether the number registered as unemployed in those districts included employees directly concerned in the disputes; and, if not, in what way the percentage was affected.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The percentage of unemployed members of trade unions published in the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette* in the last quarter of 1906 was of course affected by the disputes in the shipbuilding trades on the Clyde and Tees owing to the inclusion of a number of men whose employment, though not themselves on strike, was indirectly affected by the stoppage. Such men are properly included among the unemployed; but persons who are on strike or who have been locked out are not so included. It is not possible to estimate with any degree of accuracy the extent to which the percentage of unemployed was affected by the disputes referred to.

Ballinakill Bay Oysters.

Mr. O'MALLEY (Galway, Connemara): To ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland if his attention has been drawn to the action brought against certain tenants in Ballinakill, county Galway, by Sergeant Elliott, of Letterfrack, in the said county, for taking oysters from Ballinakill Bay, which right they have enjoyed for seventeen years; whether he is aware that the case was dismissed but the Letterfrack bench of magistrates on the 18th instant; and whether, in view of this decision, the tenants will be allowed in future to exercise their rights to these oyster beds.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) My attention has been called to the matter referred to. The question of granting a licence for an oyster bed at Ballinakill Bay is the subject of a pending appeal before the Privy Council. I have no information as to what rights, if any, the tenants may have, but pending the decision of the appeal the police have been instructed not to take further action in the matter except to preserve the peace, should it be in any way endangered.

Lough Erne Fisheries.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH (Fermanagh, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any arrangements have yet been made by which the Crown, as owner of the bed and soil of Lough Erne, would contribute towards the cost of the preservation of the fisheries in the Lough.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) My predecessor informed the hon. Member, on 27th November last,† that the Commissioners of Woods and Forests had asked the local Board of Conservators to put forward a definite proposal as to the Commissioners' co-operation in the protection of the fisheries in Lough Erne. No such proposal has as yet been received by the Commissioners.

Ely Estate, County Fermanagh.

MR. FETHERSTONHAUGH: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether any agreement for the sale of the Ely estate, county Fermanagh, has yet been lodged with the Estates Commissioners; have the Estates Commissioners approached the owner of this large estate with a view to inducing him to sell the estate; and will he direct the attention of the Commissioners to the importance of so large a property being sold to the tenants.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) I am informed that no agreements for purchase in respect of this estate have yet been lodged with the Estates Commissioners, and the Commissioners are not aware that there have been such negotiations and differences as to terms of purchase as would bring the case within the terms of the Lord-Lieutenant's regulation regarding their action as conciliators. The Commissioners, however, are prepared to consider any application which may be made to them in the matter.

Irish Lights Board.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether it is intended to introduce this Session a measure to reconstitute and and reform the Irish Lights Board; and whether there is Governmental supervision respecting the acceptance of tenders for their supplies.

(*Answered by Mr. Lloyd-George.*) The constitution and administration of the Irish Lights Board, and of the other general lighthouse authorities, are at present under the consideration of a Royal Commission, pending whose Report I cannot say whether His Majesty's Government are likely to introduce a Bill dealing with this subject. The reply to the second part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Evicted Tenants in Queen's County.

MR. MEEHAN (Queen's County, Leix): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland what is the total number of evicted tenants in Queen's County; how many have applied for reinstatement; how many cases have been considered and decided on; how many cases have been rejected; what is the total number reinstated; how many have been reinstated on their former holdings; what is the total cost of purchase of land, buildings, and free grants respectively; if any sales are being arranged with a view of restoring the remaining evicted tenants; how many farms from which tenants were evicted have been sold to the persons who got possession after the owners were evicted; and what is the acreage and amount of purchase money of these farms.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners inform me that they have no knowledge as to the total number of evicted tenants in Queen's County. Two hundred and thirty-eight evicted tenants have applied to them for reinstatement in that county. The Commissioners have ruled on sixty-four applications; forty-two have been rejected, forty have been reinstated, and of these latter thirty-six have been placed in their former holdings. In twenty-on cases the holdings have been vested in the purchaser, the purchase money being £22,243. Advances amounting to £2,230 have been made for improvements for buildings, and the Commissioners have given free grants amounting to £5,576 for buildings and £1,623 for live stock. The Commissioners have made offers of advances in six cases which up to the present have not been replied to. They have no information as to the number of evicted holdings which may be in the hands of other purchasers.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxv., 1407.

Strokestown Tenants' Difficulties.

MR. O'KELLY (Roscommon, N.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether his attention has been called to the case of James Farrell, tenant on the estate of Mrs. Sarah Flannery at Strokestown, county Roscommon; whether he is aware that Farrell, owing to temporary difficulties, was unable to pay interest on the purchase money of his farm pending the completion of the sale of the estate, that he subsequently offered to pay up arrears and had his offer refused, and that the Estates Commissioners now decline to allow him to complete the purchase; and whether he will ask the Commissioners to reconsider their decision in the case of this man who through loss of stock, was unable to keep to the lette of his contract.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) In this case the tenant's agreement to purchase was dated 30th April, 1904. The tenant paid the first half-year's interest up to 1st November, 1904, but nothing further. The Commissioners took proceedings to recover the interest, but a return of "no goods" was made. Eventually the tenant asked for further time, promising to make payment in June, 1906. When that time arrived, however, he informed the Commissioners that he was unable to pay, and the Commissioners, therefore, after giving him due notice, excluded his holding from the sale. The matter is entirely one for the decision of the Estates Commissioners.

Captain Caldbeck's Ballacolla Estate.

MR. DELANY (Queen's County, Ossory): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he can say what progress has been made in the proposed sale of the estate of Captain Caldbeck Ballacolla, Queen's County, to the Estates Commissioners; whether the Commissioners have made an offer to Captain Caldbeck; and, if so, has the offer been accepted, and has the division of the untenanted land amongst a few large farmers and business men met with the Commissioners' approval.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Estates Commissioners have communicated to the vendor the estimated price which they are prepared to give, and have also intimated that they would be prepared to make advances for the purchase of certain village holdings provided that the tenants should bring in certain additional sums in cash. The tenants have declined to bring in the amounts named by the Commissioners, but have offered lesser sums, and their offers are at present under consideration. Until the owner has agreed to sell, the Commissioners will not consider the question of the distribution of the untenanted land.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

His Majesty's Ships—Officers' Expenditure on Paint.

MR. HART-DAVIES (Hackney, N.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether any definite orders have yet been passed prohibiting officers from spending their own money on the painting and decoration of His Majesty's ships of war; and, if not, whether he will consider the desirability of passing orders to this effect.

THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): No definite orders have been issued on the subject, but as stated in the previous Answer given to the hon. Member on 12th November,† the Admiralty discourage the practice referred to as much as possible.

In reply to a further Question,

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said he thought the sum granted by the Admiralty was quite adequate for the purpose.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxiv., 1031.

Greenwich Observatory.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether he has received any communication from the London County Council with reference to the Report of the Committee appointed to inquire into the working of the London County Council generating station at Greenwich; whether the Council are willing to agree to the recommendations of the Committee, and especially to give the undertaking called for by paragraph C of those recommendations.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: It is understood that the Report is now under consideration by the London County Council. No official communication, however, as to the views of the Council on the Report has yet been received.

Royal Visit to Devonport—The Admiralty and the Municipality.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether his attention has been called to the friction between the Admiralty officials and the municipality of Devonport on the occasion of the recent visit of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales; and whether he will cause an inquiry to be made into the want of tact alleged to have been shown by the Admiralty officials.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The answer to the first part of the question is in the affirmative, and the Admiralty greatly regret that any such friction should have arisen; but they do not see any reason for an inquiry to be made into the subject, or that any good would arise from one.

German Fleet.

MR. HUNT (Shropshire, Ludlow): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, in view of the fact that Germany will have, in a few months, sixteen or eighteen battleships ready for instant action, and as our Home Fleet must necessarily be a fleet in reserve, and therefore quite unable to be ready to meet a sudden attack, he will say what other battleships, besides the fourteen of the Channel fleet, will be instantly available to defend our shores.

MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: While deprecating most strongly the selection of one particular Power as the hypothetical enemy, I cannot admit the hon. Member's suggestion that the Home Fleet will be unable to meet a sudden attack.

MR. HUNT: How can a fleet be said to be fully manned and instantly ready for sea when the crews are nucleus crews, some of whom are insufficiently trained and unused to their ships?

*MR. SPEAKER: That is a question for debate on the Navy Estimates.

Paardeburg Medal.

MR. WHITEHEAD: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what are the conditions governing the granting of a bar for the battle of Paardeburg; and whether F. J. Brockett, late private G Company, 1st Battalion Highland Light Infantry, who was present at that battle in the Highland Brigade Small Arms Ammunition Reserve Column, is entitled to receive the bar.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): The clasp Paardeburg was granted to all troops within 7,000 yards of General Cronje's final laager between midnight of the 17th and midnight of 26th February, 1900, and to all troops within 7,000 yards of Koodoe's Rand Drift between these dates. This man's name does not appear upon any of the rolls for this clasp, but an inquiry has been addressed to the officer under whom he states he served during that action, and the result will be notified direct to Private Brockett.

New Cavalry Sword.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the deliberations with regard to the new pattern cavalry sword, which was under consideration on 23rd November, 1906, have been concluded; and, if so, with what result.

MR. HALDANE: The Committee have recommended a pattern, and a number of swords are now being manufactured with a view to experimental trial by the troops.

Duke of York's School.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the Inter-Departmental Committee appointed in reference to the disposal of the site of the Duke of York's school have come to any, and, if so, what, decision.

MR. HALDANE: No final decision has as yet been reached.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: Can the right hon. Gentleman indicate how long it will be before a final decision is taken?

[No Answer was returned.]

New Bayonet.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the pattern of the new bayonet has been settled; and whether he can hold out any hope of bringing this matter to a a speedy settlement.

MR. HALDANE: No decision has yet been arrived at. Patterns of new bayonets have been issued for trial by the troops and reports will be furnished on completion of the trials.

Defences of London.

MR. LONSDALE (Armagh, Mid): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War when it is expected that some of the sites and buildings connected with the defences of London will be sold; and to what purposes will the proceeds of such sales be devoted.

MR. HALDANE: It is expected that some of the sites and buildings will be sold at an early date. The proceeds of such sales will be taken in relief of Army expenditure.

Indian Administration.

*MR. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the system of combined magisterial and executive functions in the same official is one which was created by the British in India, or one inherited by them from their predecessors; whether, if the latter be the fact and this system has obtained from time immemorial, the Government will see fit not to press the Government of India to hasten to separate such functions, to the prejudice of the general taxpayer, who has made no complaint and knows of no other system; and whether the Government will allow the Government of India to take its own time before embarking upon the creation of large numbers of stipendiary magistrates at the expense of the masses for the benefit of certain classes.

*THE UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. CHARLES HOBHOUSE, Bristol, E.): The practice of combining magisterial with executive functions existed in India before the establishment of British rule. It is certain that no alteration will be made in the existing system except after full consideration of the question by the Government of India.

Indian Railway Rolling Stock.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE (Inverness Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether there exists at present a serious deficiency in the amount of rolling stock on the Indian railways, whereby heavy losses are being entailed on native producers and traders, and the development of the resources of the country is being retarded; whether the amount of funds to be allocated to railway expenditure in the next ensuing financial year is to be reduced from fifteen crores to twelve crores; whether, if such reduction is made, it will apply both to equipment and construction; whether a reduction on equipment will increase the loss already being suffered by producers and traders; and whether a reduction on construction will involve waste of the force of the construction staff, loss of interest on the money already spent, and loss of profit from the delay in bringing the new lines to the productive stage.

*MR. HOBHOUSE: There is undoubtedly a deficiency of rolling stock on some of the Indian railways. The sum to be allocated for railways in 1907–8 is £8,000,000 (twelve crores) of which £2,787,000 is to be expended on the supply of rolling stock on open lines, as against £2,546,666 in 1906–7. There has therefore been an increase, and not a reduction, in the expenditure proposed under this head. I am, however, aware of the importance of this subject, and it is receiving consideration from which I anticipate effective results. The reduction in the estimate for construction cannot operate in the way suggested in the Question, except in the case of works already begun; and the Government of India will undoubtedly take steps to avoid such consequences as far as possible.

The 10th Hussars.

MR. ROSE (Cambridgeshire, Newmarket): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India if he can state the number of officers and men of the 10th Hussars admitted to hospital each month since they relieved the 9th Lancers in September 1906, at Rawul Pindi; whether the epidemic of fever was in any way occasioned through insanitary accommodation, and what steps he proposes to take to prevent a recurrence of the epidemic; and whether the Indian Government or the War Office are responsible for sanitation of troops stationed in India.

*MR. HOBHOUSE: The reply has not yet been received. Perhaps my hon. friend will repeat the Question in two or three days.

MR. LEA (St. Pancras, E.): Was it not promised that the information should be cabled for?

*MR. HOBHOUSE: I have cabled for it, but it necessarily takes some time to get a reply, even by cable.

Indian Supply and Transport Corps.

MR. ANNAN BRYCE: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he is aware that for some years after the formation of the Supply and Transport Corps in India difficulty was experienced in finding officers for it; whether the cadre was eventually filled by raising the scale of pay so as to attract regimental officers; whether it is now intended to reduce the scale of pay of officers in the corps; and whether, if this reduction is made, it is intended to apply the saving so effected towards an increase in the pay of either the heads of the corps at headquarters or regimental officers.

*MR. HOBHOUSE: Some years ago the pay of the junior officers of the Supply and Transport Corps was increased with a view to making the corps more attractive. No proposal for any reduction in pay has reached me.

Justices of the Peace—Fees on Appointment.

*MR. REES: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether Justices of the Peace newly appointed to borough benches have to pay a fee of £2 per head; whether such Justices of the Peace can qualify by paying a reduced fee of £1 in London; and whether, if the facts be as stated, there is any reason for such difference and for any payment whatsoever in this connection.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I have no information as to what are the fees generally charged to Justices of the Peace newly appointed to borough benches. The fee authorised in London is £2. As to the reasons for charges in this connection, I may say that there is a fee of £1 payable to the Crown Office on the insertion of new names in a Commission of the Peace, and that there are other fees varying in amount according to the table of fees in force in the different jurisdictions and payable to the Clerk of the Peace for services rendered, *e.g.*, administering the oaths correspondence, etc. I have no initiative in the matter. My powers are limited to giving my approval, with or without amendment, of such new tables of fees as may be submitted to me.

MR. REES: Will the right hon. Gentleman inquire into the matter, since many of the new magistrates have more merit than money?

MR. GLADSTONE said he thought it would be useful to obtain a Return of the scales of fees charged.

Slate Clubs.

MR. WHITEHEAD (Essex, S.E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the losses in connection with slate clubs; and whether he can introduce legislation to protect the funds of those who adopt this mode of insurance.

MR. GLADSTONE: Slate clubs are usually small affairs, dividing at Christmas sums of from 20s. to 30s. They are not registered under any Act of Parliament; but could, if the members wished, be registered under the Friendly Societies Act. There are a few failures each year owing to defalcations; but this might be avoided without recourse to legislation if every person in charge of the funds were required by the members to give security in a good guarantee society. The premium might, if it were thought desirable, be paid by the club.

Foreign Labour in Scottish Mines.

SIR W. EVANS GORDON (Tower Hamlets, Stepney): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many aliens are at present employed in the mining and fire clay industries in Scotland; and how many were in the same employment in the year 1903.

MR. GLADSTONE: Exact figures are not available, but the inspectors estimate roughly that the number of foreigners employed at the mines is from 1,000 to 1,500 in the West Scotland district, and in the East Scotland district about 500. At the beginning of 1904 the total number of foreigners employed in mines in Scotland was estimated at 1,600.

*MR. BYLES (Salford, N.): Can the right hon. Gentleman give any indication of the number of British workers employed through the enterprise of alien employers?

MR. GLADSTONE: I must have notice of that Question.

Wall Paper Industry.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if his attention has been directed to a recent official Report by Mr. Rufus Fleming, Consul of the United States at Edinburgh, in which, dealing with the question of importing American wall paper into this country, he states that for some years the wall paper industry of the United Kingdom has been in the hands of a trust which regulates production and controls prices, and which only permits wholesale dealers to import foreign wall paper on condition that it does not undersell the trust productions; whether he can confirm or deny the accuracy of this Report; and whether, if the Report is accurate, he will consider the advisability of taking steps to protect consumers.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I have seen the Report to which my hon. friend refers. The Wall Paper Manufacturers, Limited, inform me that they are not aware of any restrictions as to the prices at which imported wall papers may be sold.

Baker Street and Waterloo Tube Railway.

MR. T. DAVIES (Fulham): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade, if his attention has been drawn to a fire that occurred on the Baker Street and Waterloo Tube Railway; and, having regard to the results that might attend a fire on an underground railway, where there is no possibility for any passengers who might be in the train to escape, whether he has directed an inquiry to be made; if not, will he do so; and whether he will also direct that immediate notification be sent to the London Fire Brigade by the company on whose line a fire may occur, so that its expert knowledge might be utilised in inquiries that might be made on any future fires on underground railways in London.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: The accident referred to by my hon. friend occurred on the 13th instant and on the following day. The circumstances were carefully investigated by the Board's electrical adviser, whose observations are now before the Department. I shall be glad to show a copy to my hon. friend if he will call at the Board of Trade. I understand from the Report that the cars, being of steel, sustained no material damage, and that no personal injuries were caused. It is satisfactory to find that the Board's requirements, designed to provide against risks from fire on "tube" railways, appear to have been adequate in this case. As far as regards the provision at stations of hydrants, etc., the Board's requirements (of which I will furnish a copy to my hon. friend) were framed in concert with the London County Council, and the Board required the company to obtain, before the opening of the line was authorised, a certificate that the chief officer of the fire brigade was satisfied that the prescribed precautions had been duly given effect to. The concluding suggestion made by my hon. friend shall receive my consideration.

Coal Exports.

*Mr. FELL (Great Yarmouth): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if there has been any increase in the monthly export of coal from this country since the export duty was taken off.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: The export duty on coal ceased to be levied on the 31st October last. In the three months which have elapsed since that date there has been an average monthly increase of about 600,000 tons in the export of coal as compared with the corresponding period a year ago. The period of three months, however, is too short to enable any useful comparison to be made.

*Mr. FELL: Is the present increase in the price of coal attributable in any way to this state of affairs?

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am not competent to express an opinion on that point.

Mr. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil): Has not the increase in the exports been gradual and continuous for a long number of years?

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I believe so.

Waterford Railway Station Tolls.

Mr. POWER (Waterford, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is aware that the Great Southern and Western Railway Company now exact a toll of one penny per head from people visiting their platforms in the Waterford terminus, either for the purpose of seeing off or meeting friends travelling by the trains, and from tradespeople's messengers who are sent to deliver parcels to passengers: whether he is aware that, as Waterford tradespeople have to pay a bridge toll of twopence to send messengers to the trains with parcels, this additional charge becomes a heavy tax on their business; and whether he proposes to take any action to stop it.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: I have communicated with the railway company in this matter, and am informed that it is the case that they make a charge of one penny for persons other than passengers going on to the platforms at Waterford, but that arrangements have been made for tradespeople's messengers to deliver their parcels outside the barrier at which the penny is charged. The charge made by the Bridge Commissioners for crossing the river, which is referred to in the latter part of the Question, is a matter over which the company do not appear to have any control. The Board of Trade have no statutory powers in the matter.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN (Kilkenny) was understood to ask if supposing an automatic machine were used for collecting the charge the right hon. Gentleman would insist on the tickets being issued by a clerk in order if an accident happened that the company might be held responsible.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: We have no control over that.

Mr. PATRICK O'BRIEN: We shall have control over the next Bill the Company promote.

United States Duties on Imported Works of Art.

Mr. LONSDALE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether he is yet in a position to state the result of the communications which have passed between His Majesty's Government and the Government of the United States with reference to the import duty levied in the United States upon British works of art, which is at the rate of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, as compared with 15 per cent. charged upon works of art imported from other European countries.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE: Not yet; but if the hon. Member will speak to me on the subject behind the Speaker's Chair, I shall be glad to give him any further information in my power.

Unemployment Returns.

Mr. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood): I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether his attention has been called to the fact that the Returns of unemployment issued by the Board of Trade are compiled upon information representing not only real and enforced unemployment, but also every temporary and voluntary displacement of labour due to local strikes, lock-outs, seasonal unemployment, changes of employer, sickness, and similar causes; whether the method of compilation or accuracy of this information is in any way checked by the Board of Trade; and whether, in view of the fact that the figures in these Returns are sometimes quoted as representing enforced and involuntary unemployment alone, he will cause them, in future, to be accompanied by a note explaining their true character.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: As already explained in a reply given to the hon. Member for the Bury division of Lancashire,† the percentage of unemployed members of trade unions published in the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette* does not include persons on strike or locked out, sick or superannuated. The Returns, however, include quite properly persons who are out of work as a consequence of others being on strike or locked out, or owing to unfavourable weather or change of employment. The main basis of the Returns is the trade union record of the members receiving unemployed benefit, and their accuracy is readily checked by the financial statements of the trade unions as to the amount of benefit so paid. I shall be glad to consider the question of giving an explanatory note as to the figures in the Board of Trade *Labour Gazette*.

MR. THORNE (West Ham, S.): Would it be possible to get the number of unemployed who do not belong to any union by a census such as they have in the United States?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That is the only way that suggests itself to my mind at the moment.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the advisability of having a special column in the next census paper as is done in the United States?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: That is a matter for the President of the Local Government Board.

Lamb's Conduit Street Vaccination Station.

MR. LUPTON (Lincolnshire, Sleaford): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been drawn to the report of Dr. Kelsch to the Academie de Medicine, Paris, two years ago, in which he records the fact that he saw an experiment being made at the vaccination station, Lamb's Conduit Street, to inoculate calves with the variolous matter of human smallpox, with a view to manufacturing so-called cow-pox virus out of the contents of the resulting sores; and whether he will give orders for the prosecution of any persons who may make such experiments.

Notice had also been given of the following Questions:—

MR. LUPTON: To ask the President of the Local Government Board if his attention has been called to the report of Dr. Kelsch to the Paris Academie de Medicine two years ago, in which that scientist shows that Belgium was the only country in which cow-pox is now being used for the manufacture of vaccine lymph; whether Dr. Kelsch accurately reports that he had seen an experiment in progress in Lamb's Conduit Street to manufacture so-called vaccine lymph out of the variolous matter of human smallpox; and, if so, whether, in view of Section 32 of The Vaccination Act, 1867, he will order the prosecution of such of his subordinate officials as have thus infringed the law.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. JOHN BURNS, Battersea): Perhaps my hon. friend will allow me to answer this Question, and at the same time to reply to his second Question on the Paper. My attention has been called to the report of Dr. Kelsch, but I do not find that he stated that he had seen an experiment in progress at Lamb's Conduit Street to manufacture vaccine lymph out of the variolous matter of human smallpox. I understand him to say that he saw a calf at the stables covered with an eruption produced by inoculation of variolous virus after two passages through the monkey and two others through the calf. This description I am informed is correct. The result of the vaccination was not used, and never was intended to be used, for human vaccination. The operation was a test of the value of an experiment performed elsewhere in its bearing on the possible manufacture of lymph, and does not appear to have involved an infringement of the Cruelty to Animals Act. Section 32 of the Vaccination Act, 1867, to which my hon. friend refers, prohibits the inoculation of persons with smallpox. There was no contravention of the section in this case.

---

† See Col. 1236.

Spotted Fever.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if, having regard to the recent importation of that dangerous alien disease known as spotted fever, and the rapidity with which it spreads, he will issue strict instructions for the inspection of all alien immigrant ships, and, following the precedent of 1892, at the time of the outbreak of cholera at Hamburg, direct that no suspected case be allowed to land under any pretext.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: Cerebro-spinal fever is not necessarily a disease imported from abroad, and at the present time I am not aware that there is any exceptional prevalence of it on the Continent. The circumstances in relation to this disease are different from those affecting an outbreak of cholera such as that referred to in the Question. As regards alien immigrants on immigrant ships which come within the Aliens Act, 1905, the hon. Member is aware that they are inspected under the Act, and that the Act requires that leave to land shall be withheld in the case of any such alien, if, owing to any disease, he appears likely to become a detriment to the public.

Sir HOWARD VINCENT: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that 150,000 aliens came from continental ports last year, and might have brought the epidemic?

[No Answer was returned.]

Westminster City Council Finance.

Sir ROBERT HOBART (Hampshire, New Forest): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether his attention has been drawn to the interim report of Mr. A. Carson Roberts, district auditor of the metropolitan boroughs, upon certain contracts made by the Council of the City of Westminster, containing grave charges against their inefficient administration during the last financial year; and whether he will cause an immediate searching inquiry to be made by his Department into a matter that so seriously concerns the ratepayers in the City of Westminster.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: I have seen the auditor's report. The jurisdiction of the Local Government Board in relation to the matters referred to in it would arise out of any appeal to them against the auditor's decision in respect of any allowance, disallowance, or surcharge in connection with them. I understand that the auditor has given notice to the members of the Council concerned to show cause why a surcharge should not be made in this case, but that the audit is not yet completed. I am, therefore, not at present in a position to interfere, but in the event of an appeal of the kind I have mentioned being made, I will give consideration to the suggestion in the Question.

In reply to a further Question,

Mr. BURNS said he believed the hearing of the Council's case before the auditor would be taken on the following Wednesday.

Public Health Acts.

Lord R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether, in connection with the Public Health Bill, he will cause to be printed and circulated to hon. Members of this House so much of The Public Health Act, 1896, and the enactments mentioned in that Act, as will show what power of making regulations has been conferred by such Act and enactments.

Mr. JOHN BURNS: Yes, sir, I will take steps for this purpose.

Infantile Mortality.

Mr. ROGERS (Wiltshire, Devizes): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he intends to introduce any legislation this session dealing with the abnormally high death rate of children under five years of age;

and what steps are being taken to direct the attention of local authorities to this matter.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am giving attention to this subject, and hope that it will be practicable during the present session to introduce legislation bearing upon it. I am impressing on local authorities and their officers, by circulars and otherwise, the importance of collecting data, and studying the problems connected with it.

MR. LEIF JONES (Westmoreland, Appleby): Will the right hon. Gentleman, in view of the revelations made by Mr. G. R. Sims, consider the desirability of prohibiting the taking of young children into public houses?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am aware of revelations being made by Mr. Sims, but I am not in the habit of attaching too much importance to some of them.

Tuberculosis.

MR. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, what action he proposes to take in carrying out the conclusions of the Royal Commission on Tuberculosis, seeing that not only the Commissioners but a large number of experts outside the Commission are agreed that far more stringent measures are required than those at present enforced to prevent the sale of such milk as contains tubercle bacilli.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am giving attention to the Report of the Royal Commission, but am not at present in a position to take action upon it. The Report has only recently been presented, and as yet the Appendices referred to in it have not been issued. The conclusions of the Commissioners relate to matters of much importance, and must be carefully considered by both the Local Government Board and the Board of Agriculture.

Motor Car Bill.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board on what date he is likely to introduce the Bill dealing with motor cars.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am not at present in a position to make any statement as to the introduction of a Bill ealing with this subject.

Municipal Borrowing Powers.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether municipal authorities who borrow money for the extension of their sewage farms will be permitted, out of such moneys, to pay their permanent staff for draining, excavating, and carting, for official and clerical assistance.

The hon. Member had also given notice of the following Question:—

To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether a borough or county council can use the moneys obtained by loan for the purpose of paying the regular carters who are engaged by them permanently to do the carting work of any undertaking they may have in hand.

MR. JOHN BURNS: The view taken by the Local Government Board is that payments of the kind referred to in both of these Questions cannot properly be made out of borrowed money.

West Bridgford Public Works.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he has received a letter from the borough surveyor of West Bridgford, dated 11th February, anent the conditions on which loans are granted to local authorities; and, if so, what has been the nature of his reply.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have received the letter referred to, and am sending a reply to the effect that the Local Government Board gather from the letter that the Urban District Council are not in a position to give permanent employment to the men referred to in it upon work the cost of which is payable out of current rates. If so, and the services of the men are not in fact required for their usual work, the Board are not aware of anything to prevent the Urban District Council from engaging these men to carry out works in respect of which loans have been sanctioned, and paying their wages out of the loans.

Spotted Fever.

MR. LUPTON: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board if the micrococcus of vaccinia has yet been discovered or isolated, and, if not, in what way can the unknown micrococcus be distinguished from that of spotted fever; and will he cause to be printed precise details of the method of examining vaccine matter by which the authorities make sure that the germs of spotted fever are absent.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I am advised that the micrococcus of vaccinia has not been discovered or isolated, and that competent authorities are of opinion that the specific cause of vaccinia is not a micrococcus at all; but I trust that my hon. friend will excuse me if I point out that the pathology of different diseases is not conveniently discussed by means of Questions and Answers in this House. As regards the last part of the Question, the precise details of the method of examining vaccine matter will be found printed in the Reports of the Medical Officer of the Local Government Board.

MR. LUPTON: Will the right hon. Gentleman give us an opportunity of discussing this matter?

MR. JOHN BURNS: I would suggest the hon. Member should pay a visit—a surprise visit if he likes—to the Lambs' Conduit Station.

Stockport Messenger's Dismissal.

MR. BOWLES: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether his attention has been called to the case of Mr. Frank Gorst, son of Mr. Charles Gorst, licensee of the King's Head Hotel, Tiviot Dale, who was recently engaged as a messenger at the Stockport post office and who was subsequently dismissed on the sole ground that he resided upon licensed premises; whether there is any fixed regulation in the Post Office Department under which this dismissal was ordered; and, if so, whether he will consider the desirability of revising such regulation.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I am making inquiry on the subject and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Postal and Telegraphic Facilities in Scotland.

*MR. MORTON (Sutherland): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the promise which he gave in the Budget Statement last session, to give enlarged postal and telegraphic facilities to rural districts, securing that each place in the United Kingdom shall have, save in very exceptional cases, at least three deliveries a week, and in case of a guarantee being required where postal, telegraph, or telephone facilities are given, the Postmaster General shall in ordinary conditions take two-thirds of the risk, is yet in force; and, if so, does it apply to Scotland.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. The Answer is in the affirmative.

*MR. MORTON: I should have liked to have had an Answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as it was his statement.

Welsh Education Department.

LORD R. CECIL: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education whether it is proposed to complete the staff of the newly formed Welsh Department by transfers from the Board of Education, or whether the appointment of any other persons, not at present in the Civil Service, is contemplated; and, if so, for what reason a different course is to be pursued from that which was followed upon the formation of the Scottish Education Department.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. MCKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The newly formed Welsh Department will be completed partly by transfers from the Board of Education and partly by the appointment of other persons not at present in the Civil Service. The Scottish Education Department offers no analogy to the Department now under consideration, since the former was removed by statute and placed under other political heads than those presiding over the Department from which it was detached.

LORD R. CECIL: What difference does the creation of a Scottish Education Department make in this question?

MR. McKENNA: I have given the reasons.

New Education Bill.

MR. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Education if the Government propose to make any change of policy in connection with the teachers' register.

MR. McKENNA: I hope shortly to introduce an Education (Administrative Provisions) Bill comprising the non-controversial clauses of last year's measure, and including the amended clause regarding the teachers' register which in its final shape was agreed to by all parties concerned.

British Trawlers and the Norwegian Flag.

MR. MORTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that the so-called Foreign trawlers that frequent the Moray Firth are really owned by British companies or firms; is he also aware that they are making use of the Norwegian nationality to break the laws of this country; and will he state what action he proposes to take.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury, for Sir EDWARD GREY): My right hon. friend believes that, speaking generally, there is some truth in the statements made in the Question. But he is not aware that there is anything illegal in the fact of British-owned vessels being registered under a foreign flag. And he cannot take any action which is inconsistent with principles of international law, which have been recognised by this country as well as by others.

Acts on Food Adulteration.

LORD R. CECIL: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether, in connection with the Butter and Margarine Bill, he will cause to be printed and circulated Section 9 of The Margarine Act, 1887, as amended by Section 7 of The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, showing how it is proposed to be adapted to the above-mentioned Bill; Section 7 of The Food and Drugs Act, 1899, showing how it is proposed to be adapted by the Bill; Section 1 of The Food and Drugs Act, 1899, showing the Amendments proposed by the Bill; Sections 4 and 17 of The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899, and Sections 5, 11, and 12 of The Margarine Act, 1887; and a statement of the premises required to be registered under The Sale of Food and Drugs Act, 1899.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): A memorandum giving the information suggested by the noble Lord is in course of preparation and will be printed and circulated as suggested.

Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

MR. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, of whom the Board consists; whether it has ever met; and, if so, the date of the last meeting.

SIR EDWARD STRACHEY: The Board of Agriculture and Fisheries consists of a President, who must be a Member of the Privy Council, the President of the Council, the Principal Secretaries of State, the First Lord of the Treasury, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretary for Scotland, and such other persons as His Majesty may from time to time think fit to appoint. There is no record of the Board as such having ever met.

Election Expenditure.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General if his attention has been directed to the growing practice of infringing the Corrupt Practices Act by the expenditure of large sums of money on election expenses, otherwise than through the candidates or their election agents; and if he can take immediate steps to check this practice.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.) was understood to say that under the provisions of the law in its present form money might be expended—except in respect of specified illegal objects—during an election, provided such expenditure was not made in the conduct or management of the election by a candidate or agent or agency acting on his behalf. In his opinion, it was open to grave question whether such a practice was not a breach of the spirit of the

Corrupt Practices Act, and whether, in many cases, it did not constitute a palpable evasion of the restrictions upon expenditure during an election. The matter was well worthy the attention of Parliament, but he could not make any promise to propose an Amendment of the law during the present session.

Electoral Posters.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: I beg to ask the Attorney-General if he is aware that at the present time a large sum of money is being spent by certain persons in publishing throughout London large and expensive coloured posters urging voters to support candidates who term themselves Municipal Reformers; that such expenditure is being made in defiance of the legal limitations as to the cost of elections; and whether he can take steps to amend the law in such manner as to make this evasion of its intentions impossible.

MR. T. L. CORBETT (Down, N.): Before the hon. and learned Gentleman answers the Question, may I ask whether he will also consider the question of certain expenses of very highly coloured posters conveying an entirely mendacious impression of Chinamen's labour, and reflecting on the conduct of hon. Members of this House?

SIR JOHN WALTON: I think if the expenditure has been made by a candidate or by any agent on his behalf, it can be dealt with under the provisions of the law as they now exist, but if made by some voluntary agency or other persons acting outside, the practice falls within the terms of my Answer to the previous Question.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY asked whether the hon. and learned Attorney-General's attention had been directed to the extreme urgency of the Question which had arisen through incidents which had happened since he had put the Question on the Paper—namely, the buying up of men at 5s. a day for a demonstration in Trafalgar Square, and the issue of large red bills which had been placed in all parts of London with regard to the tramways.

SIR JOHN WALTON: I may say that I think that in this respect, and in other respects, the law in regard to elections needs Amendment, and I hope, sooner or later, to introduce a measure on that subject.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: May I ask whether a proper proportion of the cost of these posters ought not to be returned by the respective candidates in their respective divisions?

[No Answer was returned.]

Meat Inspection in Scotland.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if, in view of the dissatisfaction as to the unequal manner in which the officials of local authorities in Scotland carry out their inspection of meat, he will appoint a veterinary surgeon, with practical experience of the work, to report on the standard and system of inspection in operation in the different districts.

THE SECRETARY FOR SCOTLAND (Mr. SINCLAIR, Forfarshire): An inquiry into the methods of meat inspection by the officers of local authorities in Scotland is now going on, and the suggestion of my hon. friend will be considered when the results of the inquiry are forthcoming.

Inspection of Irish Pork in Scotland.

MR. WATT: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if his attention has been called to the facts that about 100 tons of boned-out pork are imported every week into Scotland from Ireland; that this pork is not inspected in Ireland, and it is not possible to inspect it in Scotland on account of the absence of the internal organs, the bones, and trunk lymphatic glands; and if he will see that in future all carcases and organs of swine slaughtered in Ireland for export to Scotland will be inspected in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, 1898, or prevented from being sold for human food.

MR. SINCLAIR: The matter referred to by my hon. friend seems rather to fall within the province of the Irish Local Government Board, whose attention is being called to the question.

Fishery Protection.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland, having regard to the fact that the interests of line fishermen suffer through illegal trawlers sweeping the fishing beds, will he state whether the funds at the disposal of the Scottish Fishery Board are yet sufficient to admit of the sea police service being strengthened by the purchase of another fishery cruiser.

MR. SINCLAIR: I learn from inquiry that the funds at the disposal of the Fishery Board are not yet sufficient to admit of another cruiser being acquired.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER - GRAY: When are there likely to be sufficient funds? This is an urgent matter for the fishermen.

MR. SINCLAIR: I am sorry I cannot say.

*MR. MORTON: May I ask my right hon. friend how, being short of cruisers for sea police service, he was able to allow the Permanent Secretary to have a cruiser last autumn for a holiday tour with ladies.

[No Answer was returned.]

Scottish School Board Franchise.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he will state when he intends to present to Parliament a Return showing the number of persons in the Highland crofting counties who are deprived of the school board franchise by reason of their rentals not exceeding £4; and, seeing that these persons are entitled to vote at Parliamentary and county council elections, will he arrange for them to secure the school board franchise under the Scottish Education Bill which he proposes to introduce this session.

MR. SINCLAIR: The Return of Occupiers of Farms (Scotland), ordered by the House of Commons on 18th December last, is in course of preparation, but the information given by it on the point referred to by the hon. Member will not be exhaustive, as it is confined to occupiers of farms. This, however, I do not so much regret, as the amendment of the law which the hon. Member desires depends rather on a question of principle than on figures. The hon. Member's suggestion that the matter might be dealt with in the Education Bill will be taken into consideration.

Physical Deterioration.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether the Local Government Board for Scotland have yet arranged to issue to parochial medical officers, sanitary inspectors, and inspectors of the poor, leaflets containing the opinions of the Committee on Physical Deterioration relative to ventilation and the bringing up of young children, with a view to the dissemination of information on these subjects.

MR. SINCLAIR: In fulfilment of the promise made in April last, the Board issued in June a circular and leaflet on the management of young children. These were circulated to public health local authorities and their medical officers and were widely appreciated. The leaflet may now be purchased through any bookseller, price one halfpenny per copy.

Scottish Courts of Session.

MR. CLELAND (Glasgow, Bridgeton): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, with a view to avoiding the inconvenience and expense entailed by the present system of legal procedure, he will consider the advisability of setting up a branch of the court of session in the West of Scotland to deal with commercial cases arising in that part of Scotland.

MR. SINCLAIR: Such inconvenience and expense as may be caused to litigants in the West of Scotland through the fact that the court of session holds its sittings in Edinburgh are not, in my opinion, sufficient to justify judicial changes of the importance and magnitude involved in the proposal of my hon. friend, and the answer is consequently in the negative. I may say that before replying in these terms I have taken counsel with my right hon. friend the Lord Advocate.

Elliot Junction Railway Accident.

MR. BELL (Derby): I beg to ask the Lord Advocate whether a public inquiry under the Fatal Accidents (Scotland) Act has been held into the cause of the accident to the ill-fated train at Elliot Junction on 28th December last; what was the verdict of the jury; if the jury found that the driver, G. Gourlay, was guilty of culpable negligence, under what circumstances or statute is the Crown taking criminal proceedings against him; why was he arrested before the sheriff's inquiry was held; and whether, in view of the anxiety and suffering caused to Gourlay, both mentally and physically, by having to undergo a third inquiry, he can see his way to advise the Crown to withdraw the prosecution.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs): A public inquiry was instructed by me in regard to this lamentable railway accident in which twenty-two persons lost their lives, and the inquiry was duly held. The jury returned a detailed verdict which was published in full at the time and of which I should be glad to furnish my hon. friend with a copy. Gourlay was found to have been at fault. He is being proceeded against under the common law of Scotland. Immediately upon the occurrence of the accident information was laid in ordinary course of law before the sheriff at Dundee, and that Judge granted warrant for the arrest of Gourlay. He applied to be liberated on bail, and upon the matter being brought to my notice his application was acceded to by the Crown and granted. With regard to the last portion of the question I may explain that the facts appear to Crown Counsel to be such as to make it proper that the case should proceed to trial. My hon. friend may rely upon the trial being conducted with absolute fairness, and he will, I trust, appreciate that it would not be in the public interest or in the interest of the accused that I should make a further statement.

Ballaghaline Pier.

MR. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland when the Bill will be introduced to enable the Clare County Council to avail of the money allocated to be spent on the fishing pier at Ballaghaline, county Clare.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL FOR IRELAND (Mr. CHERRY, Liverpool, Exchange): My right hon. friend the Chief Secretary hopes to be able, at an early date, to introduce legislation extending the power of local authorities to contribute to works of the nature referred to in the Question.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the failure to erect this pier for some years has been solely due to technical difficulties, which have now been removed, and will he see that the necessary Bill is introduced to enable the work to be carried out this spring?

MR. CHERRY: When our attention was called to the matter my colleague and I were obliged to report that under the existing law the local authority could not spend money on the work without legislation. Whether it is possible to get a Bill passed to enable the work to be commenced this spring I cannot say.

Dunshaughlin Labourers Act Inquiry.

MR. SHEEHY (Meath, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether the inspector of the Local Government Board reported the claims of John Clarke, John Corregan, and Patrick Caffery at the recent Labourers Act inquiry held in Dunshaughlin; and, if so, what were the grounds of such action.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.): The Local Government Board's inspector disallowed the applications of the persons named, because the conditions laid down by the Labourers Act were not fulfiled in some respects. I have communicated to the hon. Member a full statement of the facts.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Did not the Chief Secretary last session promise to bring in a Bill which it was generally recognised would be uncontentious? Cannot a like Bill now be brought in?

MR. CHERRY said he was not aware of any such promise having been made, but so far as he was concerned he would do his best to facilitate the passage of the Bill in every possible way.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Let the Bill be brought in at once. I can assure the right hon. Gentleman no Party or body of men will oppose it.

MR. T. L. CORBETT: Will the right hon. Gentleman consider the possibility of coupling this work with several other important piers in the North of Ireland?

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to give notice that at the earliest possible opportunity I will call attention to this matter, which is little short of a scandal.

International Exhibition Work.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY (Cavan, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he has observed the action of the International Exhibition Committee, who made it practically impossible that Irish firms should tender for the restaurant furniture; is a Government grant to be made towards this exhibition; if so, how much, and will he see that Irish labour is employed on what work still remains to be done; and further, in view of the fact that the catering contract has been secured by an English firm, will he see that Irish goods are supplied in this connection.

MR. BIRRELL: I am informed that the Committee of the Irish International Exhibition have expressly stipulated that all supplies which can be provided at fair prices in Ireland shall be purchased at home, and that Irish labour shall be employed as far as possible. No Government grant is to be given to the Exhibition, but the Department of Agriculture and the Congested Districts Board have made grants of £2,000 and £250, respectively, for the purpose of aiding small industries to exhibit their products in the Home Industries' section. In these circumstances, and as the undertaking is of private origin, the Government would in any case have no right to interfere.

Irish Land Sub-Commissioners.

MR. MOORE (Antrim, N.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received a resolution from certain Members of the House protesting against the appointment of partisans to the position of Sub-Commissioners fixing rents under the Land Acts; and if, under these circumstances, he will consider that membership of the United Irish League is a bar to any applicant seeking such appointments.

MR. BIRRELL: The Answer to the first part of the Question is in the affirmative, and to the last in the negative.

Bawnboy Union—Failure of the Potato Crop.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he has received a resolution from the Bawnboy Board of Guardians dealing with the question of seed potatoes in that district; is he aware that, owing to the failure of the potato crop in this union and in the district around Blacklion, and bearing in mind the poverty of many small holders who have suffered, Government aid in supplying seed potatoes is essential if a further famine is to be guarded against next year; and will he say what action he proposes to take.

MR. BIRRELL: The Local Government Board have received the resolution referred to in the Question. The Board have made special inquiries into the circumstances of the union referred to, and are satisfied that the union is not one in which the failure of the potato crop was such as to render it necessary for the Government to adopt special measures for the supply of seed potatoes.

Kinvara Pier.

MR. DUFFY (Galway, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that a difficulty has arisen in connection with the construction of the Kinvara Pier and other works in the harbour; whether the money required to commence and carry out the improvements is available; and will he explain what steps the Government intend to take to fulfil the promise made in the last session to enable the county council, in conjunction with the Congested Districts Board and the Agricultural Board, to commence the work at once.

MR. BIRRELL: The question of undertaking legislation which would have the effect of removing the difficulty in question is under consideration, and I hope to be able to introduce the necessary Bill at an early date.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: In considering this, will the right hon. Gentleman bear in mind the claims of other districts?

MR. BIRRELL: The Bill to which my hon. friend refers will be introduced at the earliest possible date, and I hope it will receive the friendly consideration he anticipates.

New Irish Judge.

MR. MOORE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland when the vacancy in the King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland to which Mr. Sergeant Dodd has been appointed was created; and if the judgeship was the one referred to by his predecessor on 28th May, 1906,† in this House as extinct or suspended.

The following Questions also appeared on the Paper:—

MR. MOORE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if his predecessor stated to the House, on 28th May, 1906,† that the salary saved by the extinction of this judgeship, amounting to £3,500 per annum, was to be applied for the purpose of financing the Labourers (Ireland) Act, 1906; and if the Act so contemplated.

MR. MOORE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that his predecessor introduced a Bill in the last session of Parliament finally to abolish this judgeship and one other; and if eight additional examiners of title, at salaries of £600 per annum and upwards, were appointed in 1905 in the Land Purchase Department, expressly by arrangement with the Treasury, in lieu of filling up this judgeship, then vacant.

MR. MOORE: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if the Land Judge of the Chancery Division of the High Court of Justice expressed his willingness to assist his colleagues in Land Commission work; and if this offer was refused.

MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.): Before the right hon. Gentleman answers may I ask whether he will say whether, when the Government appointed Mr. Sergeant Dodd to the Bench, they were aware that the services of the hon. Member for North Armagh were available for the same job?

MR. BIRRELL: Legal talent in Ireland is so great that the Government is never at a loss. The vacancy referred to was created in January, 1904, by the transfer of Mr. Justice Barton to the Chancery Division; and the judgeship in question is the one which was referred to by my predecessor on 28th May last as suspended (not extinct). The Labourers Act of last session provides that the savings to be effected by the abolition of any Irish judgeships by any Act of that session shall be applied to the purposes of the Labourers Acts. It is the fact that during last session my predecessor introduced a Bill which provided for the abolition of two judgeships, but the Bill failed to become law. The proposed legislation has, however, not been abandoned. It is intended to introduce a Bill to provide that two out of the next three vacancies which may occur in the King's Bench Division shall not be filled. It is not the fact that additional examiners were appointed in lieu of filling up the vacant judgeship, and no such arrangement has ever been suggested or considered. The Land Judge of the Chancery Division has for some time past assisted in the work of the Purchase Department of the Land Commission, and he has recently expressed his willingness to undertake increased work in that connection. The proposal, which involves important financial considerations, has not been refused, but is at present under consideration. The Land Judge has not proposed to assist the Land Commission in hearing fair rent appeals, and indeed such an arrangement would not be possible without dislocating the business of his own Court. There are at present no less than 7,367 fair rent appeals pending in the Land Commission; and in the Land Purchase Department there is over £1,500,000 awaiting distribution by the Judicial Commissioner. The work of both departments in the Land Commission is, therefore, greatly in arrear, with the result that not only is the policy of land purchase impeded, but much inconvenience and hardship are inflicted upon both vendors and purchasers. Mr. Justice Dodd's services will be availed of, under a special provision of the Land Act of 1903, for the hearing of appeals, in order to enable Mr. Justice Wylie, with whatever assistance can be rendered to him by the Land Judge, to devote his whole time, if necessary, to dealing with the difficult legal questions involved in the distribution of purchase moneys of estates sold under the Land Purchase Acts.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clviii., 100.

MR. MOORE: Is it a fact that this time last year there were 11,000 appeals, and the Government introduced a Bill to abolish two judgeships?

[No Answer was returned.]

Dernacrieve Post Office.

MR. VINCENT KENNEDY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that there is only a temporary post office at Dernacrieve, Belturbet, county Cavan; is it his intention to establish a permanent post office in this district; where is the present post office situate; is it furnished with the usual letter-box, etc.; and will the convenience and comfort of the people residing in this locality be considered in any contemplated changes.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: I am aware that at present the post office at Dernacrieve is in charge of a temporary sub-postmistress; but a permanent appointment will be made very shortly; and the convenience of the inhabitants of the district will, of course, be considered. The temporary premises, which are situated about 500 yards from the old office, are reported to be convenient for the people generally. Pending a permanent appointment no letter-box has been fixed as it was undesirable to put the temporary sub-postmistress to any expense.

Kinvara Postal Dilivery.

MR. DUFFY: I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if he is aware that dissatisfaction exists in the Kinvara district, Galway, regarding the postal delivery; and whether he will take steps to bring the delivery up to the reasonable requirements of the people.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: There has been no material change in the circumstances since I considered this Question at the hon. Member's request last March,† and I am sorry, therefore, that I am unable to meet his wishes in the matter.

Roya Academicians.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY: I beg to ask the Prime Minister if his attention has been directed to the fact that the number of academicians of the Royal Academy of Arts is at the present time forty, or the same as when the Academy was founded in 1768, although the number of British artists has multiplied probably tenfold in the 139 years which have elapsed; whether he is aware that the consequent small chance of election as academicians is a real hardship to many men of recognised talent; and whether he can see his way, in view of the responsibilities of the Royal Academy, and in the interests of British Art, to make representations to the institution on the subject.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fife, E., for Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN): As my hon. friend is probably aware, the Government have no control over the Royal Academy, and therefore my right hon. friend can hardly undertake to make the representations suggested in the Question.

The Channel Tunnel.

MR. H. H. MARKS (Kent, Thanet): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether, in view of the revival of the project for the construction of a tunnel under the English Channel and of the conflicting opinions that are held as to it, he will consider the expediency of referring to a body of experts in national defence the question of the desirability of such a tunnel from the point of view of the national welfare and security.

MR. ASQUITH: No, Sir. I think the appointment of such a body of experts to consider the desirability of such a tunnel from the point of view of the national welfare and security is not necessary. The Government are sufficiently informed on this subject by the Committee of Imperial Defence and by other professional advisers.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, cliv., 1044.

Ambassador to the United States—Salary, etc.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer upon what grounds he sanctioned the raising of the salary of his late colleague, the newly appointed Ambassador to the United States, to the same level as that of President Roosevelt, the Chief of the State to which he is accredited, namely, £10,000 a year, and how he proposes to find the necessary funds; and, further, if the Embassy Mansion in Connecticut Avenue, at Washington, is the property of His Majesty's Government, together with its furniture and equipment, and if the new Ambassador has the enjoyment thereof free of rent, rates, and taxes, in addition to his salary; and whether any arrangement has been made by which Mr. Bryce shall retire at the age of sixty-five.

MR. ASQUITH: It has been found necessary, for public reasons, to raise the salary attached to the Embassy at Washington, and this was done irrespective of the person appointed Ambassador. The amount will appear in the Estimates and will come before Parliament in the same way as other salaries. The Answer to the latter part of the Question as regards the Embassy buildings is in the affirmative, except that it is only the furniture of the State rooms that is kept up at the public expense; the Ambassador is responsible for the rest of the furniture. There is no rule requiring an Ambassador to retire at sixty-five.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Then can he go on until he is 150 years old?

[No Answer was returned.]

Tobacco-Growing in Ireland.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer if the Government will support the Bill for the repeal of the Law prohibiting tobacco-growing in Ireland, which received the approval of every Member representing an Irish constituency.

MR. ASQUITH: Yes, the Government will support the Bill provided that it is amended in the manner I have suggested to the hon Member in correspondence I have recently had with him on the subject.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that the Gentlemen in charge of the Bill are prepared to accept the Amendments? Will he therefore give facilities for the Bill?

MR. ASQUITH: That Question had better be deferred till the return of the Prime Minister.

Sugar Bounties.

MR. FELL: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, having regard to the fact that it is useless to think of establishing a factory for the manufacture of sugar from beet unless with a certainty that there will be a large acreage of beet grown in the neighbourhood, and no farmer will grow this beet unless there is a factory at hand to purchase it, he will consider the advisability of granting a bonus of such a sum on each ton of sugar produced as will enable a sugar factory to be started and worked through the initiatory stages with a reasonable certainty of success.

MR. ASQUITH: No, Sir.

Saccharine Smuggling.

MR. ROWLANDS (Kent, Dartford): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a woman has been fined, at the Thames Police Court, £50 for smuggling saccharine; whether there has been an increase in the smuggling of saccharine in recent years; and can he state the number of successful prosecutions.

MR. ASQUITH: The answer to the first part of my hon. friend's Question is in the affirmative. The duty on saccharine was only imposed in 1901, and I have no reason to believe that there has been any increase in smuggling it of late. There have been, in all, twenty-three successful prosecutions at the instance of the Board of Customs, and ten at the instance of the Board of Inland Revenue.

ADJOURNMENT.

MR. MOORE, Member for North Armagh, rose in his place, and asked leave to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "the action of His Majesty's present advisers in making an appointment of a Judgeship in the High Court of Justice in Ireland, which has been vacant for the last three years.

*MR. SPEAKER: If the matter which the hon. Member has raised had come before the House for the first time, I should have felt it my duty to have refused to accept his proposal, because I doubt whether, the appointment of the Judge having been made, it can properly be said that there is any urgency in the matter, however desirable it may be to call for an explanation with regard to it. But I find I am precluded by the action of my predecessor on an almost similar occasion, on 18th May, 1900,† when a Motion was made for the adjournment of the House in order to call attention to a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "the refusal of Her Majesty's present advisers to recognise the just claims of Ireland to representation in the High Court of Appeal for the three kingdoms." It seems to me that, if it was right in that case that a motion should be made for the adjournment of the House, the case which the hon. Member proposes to raise comes well within that precedent. Therefore, I do not raise any objection. Has the hon. Gentleman the leave of the House?

The pleasure of the House having been signified, the Motion stood over, under Standing Order No. 10, until a quarter past Eight this evening.

NEW BILLS.

GROCERS' LICENCES (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To abolish Dealers' or Grocers' Licences in Scotland," presented by Mr. Rainy; supported by Mr. Crombie, Mr. Lamont, Mr. Dalziel, Mr. Findlay, Mr. Gulland, and Mr. Eugene Wason; to be read a second time upon Wednesday 17th April, and to be printed. [Bill 62.]

EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY (INSURANCE COMPANIES) BILL.

"To apply the provisions of the Life Assurance Companies Acts, 1870 to 1872, to Companies carrying on the business of insuring Employers against liability to pay compensation or damages to workmen in their employment," presented by Mr. Kearley; supported by Mr. Lloyd-George and Mr. Herbert Samuel; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 63.]

SMALL HOLDINGS (SCOTLAND) BILL.

"To deal with Small Holdings in Scotland," presented by Mr. Munro Ferguson; supported by Sir Thomas Glen Coats and Sir Edward Tennant; to be read a second time upon Monday, 18th March, and to be printed. [Bill 64.]

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE (SUPPLY).

Motion made, and Question put, "That the Proceedings on going into Committee of Supply, if under consideration at Eleven o'clock this night, be not interrupted under the Standing Order (Sittings of the House)."—(*Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer.*)

The House divided:—Ayes, 277; Noes, 78. (Division List No. 18.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Adkins, W. Ryland D.
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ambrose, Robert
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Blake, Edward
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Branch, James
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Ches.
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert

---

† See (4) *Debates*, lxxxiii., 593 *et seq.*

Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir Wm.J.(S.Pancr's,W.
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett,C.H. (Sussex,E.Gr'st'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M, Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dilke Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Elibank, Master of
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Flynn, James Christopher
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Gill, A. H.
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Hart-Davies, T.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holland, Sir William Henry
Horniman, Emslie John
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jackson, R. S.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones,William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F.(Accringt'n
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt Hon David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal,E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Murray, James
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien,Kendal (TipperaryMid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor,James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Pearce, William (Limehouse)
Philipps,Col.Ivor (S'th'mpton
Phillips, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Pullar, Sir Robert
Rainy, A. Polland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rea, Russell (Gloucester)
Rea, Walter Russell (Scarboro'
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Mon.)
Richards,T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson,Rt.Hn. E. (Dundee)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt, Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim,S.)
Soames, Arthur Wellesley
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tennant,Sir Edward (Salisbury
Thomas,Abel (Carmarthen, E.)
Thomas,Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset,E
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward,W.Dudley (Southampt'n
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney

Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H (Middlesbsrough
Wilson, J.W. (Worcesterh. H.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wodehouse, Lord
Young, Samuel.

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whitley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Gordon, Sir W. Evans (T'r Ham.
Haddock, George R.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Ed'mds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Lee, Arthur H. (Hants., Fareh'm
Liddell, Henry
Lockwood, Rt. Hn. Lt.-Col. A. R
Long, Col. Charles W. (Evesh'm.
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Pease, Herbert Pike (Darlingt'n
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rothschild, Hon. Lionel Walter
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G. (Oxf'd Univ.
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Viscount Valentia.

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Order for Committee read.

*THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): It is the custom upon this occasion for the Minister responsible for Estimates to explain them somewhat fully, but I do not imagine that the House will desire that I should upon the present occasion linger long over that task. There will be other opportunities in the course of this week, and I have matter to place before the House which will require an economical use of time in order to bring it within reasonable compass. Therefore I propose to say very little about these Estimates. They show, as the House knows, a substantial reduction under two heads. Under the head of capital, under the loan system, which is now coming to an end, we have reduced our demand upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer by upwards of £600,000 this year, and I am glad to say that, being a conscientious Department, we have repaid to him for Sinking Fund and interest considerably more than we have received from him. In addition to that there is a sum of a little over £2,000,000, which has come off the income account, and of that reduction I wish to say something. Less than half a million is the result of the reduction in the Line battalions which took place last summer. The reasons for that reduction I shall have to touch on later on, but, as regards the rest, the remaining £1,500,000, of this I may say emphatically that the Army Budget this year is a soldier's Budget. I took office deeply impressed by a declaration of Lord Randolph Churchill. He pointed out that his experience as Chancellor of the Exchequer had convinced him that the civilian economist would get nothing substantial off the soldier if he kept him at arm's length, and for that reason he made the proposition that the head of the great spending Departments of the Army and Navy should be somebody who should be closely in touch with the naval and military element. What Lord Randolph Churchill said I think has been shown to be profoundly true. The soldier is the only ultimate judge of military necessities. If he presses the matter the civilian must accept what he says. It is no use trying, as I think we have tried too much in the past under our financial system, to set spies upon him. When the spy goes he generally does not get within the lines, or if he does get within the lines he is made an end of by the soldier or captured; and the consequence is that, notwithstanding frantic efforts, we have never been able by the mere imposition of civilian scrutiny to reduce Estimates. Feeling the truth of that doctrine, I took counsel with my hon. friend the Financial Secretary, and also with his very able and devoted Director-General of Finances, Sir Guy Fleetwood Wilson, and we resolved on a different course. We went to the soldiers and said that, so far as the law and the constitution allowed, we were going to give them their head; that we would enter into a covenant with them that the things they wanted—and they were a good many—for military efficiency and for preparation for war we would do our best to get for them. On the other hand, we asked them to make a covenant with us that they would take the Estimates in hand, and would deal with them upon the footing of cutting down all things that were merely for show and were not useful for war, and of securing that the nation should, as far as possible, get value for its money. The soldiers entered into the covenant. They get this year the enlargement of Sandhurst, on which we propose to spend £250,000 with a view to giving a better education to the young officers. They get the beginning of the programme for new howitzers, which is to bring that part of our artillery up to the level of other nations. They get the building of the Victoria Barracks at Windsor on a footing which will give the private soldier better accommodation than he has—a cubicle in place of the old-fashioned barrack, and better dining and recreation rooms. They get a much-needed improvement in the pay of the commanding officers of battalions and regiments, and various minor changes on which I need not enlarge. And these things they have secured for themselves by effecting ruthless economies in the things which they judged were not necessary for the purposes of war. I do not, as far as I can judge, doubt for a moment the opinion which they have expressed to me that these economies—I am not talking of a controversial subject of the reduction of the infantry, but of the £1,500,000—I do not question for a moment their judgment that they have not detracted in the slightest degree from the fighting efficiency of the Army or the preparation for war. But, however these things may be, there is one remark which I wish to make, and that is that it would not have been possible to get this new instrument for economy had it not been for the distinguished generals who form the Army Council. Each of them now has his functions assigned, the sphere of his activities mapped out, and a definite opportunity. This is the result of the re-organisation which was made, under the powerful chairmanship of Lord Esher, by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for the City of London. Without the reform of the War Office, which was made then, it would, in my judgment, have been impossible to get, at any rate in anything like the same degree, the economies which we have succeeded in getting this year, and which I trust are not the last which the soldiers will secure for the nation. I think we may probably carry the policy with advantage still further, and, following out the principle of that assignment of definite duties, add to it the assigning of definite financial responsibility. The civilian cannot check the soldier, and it is much better to place financial responsibility where real power rests. Revise his estimates, audit his accounts, watch over his proceedings, but leave him, telling him what you want him to do, to work out your economies for you. I believe you will find, if you trust him, that you have in the soldier by far the best economist to whom you could turn. That at least has been my experience in the course of the present year, and I believe it lies at the root of the possibility of securing further reductions in Army expenditure.

But I do not want to pursue this subject of the Estimates any further. It is some fourteen months ago since it fell to me to make a speech on behalf of the Government in the City of London on the subject of the Army, and I said then that I had it in commission from my right hon. friend the Prime Minister to declare that our settled purpose was to endeavour to make the Army better and not worse, and if necessary for that purpose, if necessary to bring it up to a condition of fighting efficiency, to find more men and more money. But I went on to say that we were profoundly convinced of this—that the key to having plenty of money for making preparations for war lay in frugality in time of peace, and accordingly that we were not without hope that we should find that substantial reductions could be made on the charge to the public for Army services. What was then speculation has become, to my mind, a certainty. I went into the matter, as far as I could, in the spirit of a plain person of business. What would one do, on coming face to face with an ordinary business problem, if one had it to cope with—nay, to put it more simply, what would one do in the simple case of being responsible for the administration of a large household? Suppose one were made steward or majordomo of a great country house, where the complaint had been that the books were too high and that, on the other hand, there was too little accommodation for guests and too little provision for entertaining them—suppose one found oneself in such a position, what would one do? One would not be content with seeing, what one could see at a glance, that there was a very fine butler and half-a-dozen magnificent footmen; one would go down into the kitchen and see whether one could trace the source of the complaint that there was never enough for dinner; and if one found when one went down that, although there was a French cook, there were no kitchenmaids, or very few, and that upstairs there was a deficiency of housemaids, and if one went further and discovered that the garden was being kept by an altogether extravagant number of gardeners, who were not only, some of them, doing labourers' work when they had nothing else to do, but were making work for themselves, then one would begin to get some light at once on the size of the books; and if one discovered in the stable that there were very few horses and a large number of carriages which could not be taken to the station to convey the guests one would begin by selling some of the carriages and by buying horses. One would go on to cut down the number of gardeners, and with the money so saved engage kitchenmaids for the kitchen and more housemaids to look after the rooms. One would knock off a few footmen, and then one could mobilise for "week-ending" by getting a number of civilian waiters on a militia basis. In other words, one must look at the organisation as a whole, and endeavour to proportion its parts, and then one would have good hope, not merely of doubling the capacity for entertaining, but of a considerable and substantial reduction in the books.

That was exactly the situation which confronted me in the case of the Army with this new machinery of the Esher organisation, and the new constitution of the War Office which I had handed over to me by my predecessor, who had taken so large and honourable part in constructing it, but who had to leave it before he had an opportunity of using it. I found myself in the position to use for the first time this machinery to the full. My hon. friend who sits beside me and myself began by taking stock exactly as in the case of a household. I do not think the Army has every had such a stocktaking. We have surveyed it and made out a sort of deficiency account, just as an accountant would do who was liquidating an old business and reconstructing it with fresh capital. The result of that deficiency account I shall lay before the House this evening. But when we came to consider the reconstruction there was one thing, and one thing only, that we set before ourselves, and that was this—for our reorganisation in peace all the arrangements we had to make must be based upon preparedness for war. It is preparedness for war which is the key to the sort of organisation we ought to have in peace. If you try to do anything else you fail, as we failed in our preparations for South Africa. South Africa has taught us several lessons. There is the terrible waste of public money, and the still worse lesson—the terrible waste of valuable lives. We were resolved we would do our best with the materials handed on to us, not only in the shaping of the new organisation at the War Office, but in endeavouring to see what would be wanted in war, and to prepare to that end.

The first thing we had to consider was the test, which is the ultimate test in these matters, of readiness for mobilisation. No army is worth anything which is not ready to take the field. As a nation, we have a genius for getting ourselves through unheard of difficulties which would defeat most other Powers, and, after great waste, we sometimes manage to make up our shortcomings. But preparedness for mobilisation is to-day far more important than it was in times of yore. The old generals — the men of genius—did not make the elaborate distinction between the combatant on the one hand, and the administrative services on the other—supply, transport, and so on—which it is absolutely necessary to make to-day. The reason was that the forces they had to handle were much smaller. It is impossible to handle our Army to-day unless you have it perfect in every part—perfect in the civilian as well as in the combatant services. I need hardly say that the non-combatant services are essential in order to make the combatant services effective. It is in the highest degree important that every bit of the organisation should be made to fit into every other bit. That is the thing which requires years of work and months of preparation for any particular campaign, and it can only be successfully done if the matter is taken in hand in the most thorough-going spirit. Now, taking this test of mobilisation, and looking at Continental armies, there is one thing which strikes the eye at once as different from our case. A Continental Power has a land frontier, and the certainty that, if war breaks out, it must give shock to an invading enemy almost within a few days. Such a nation must prepare itself in a way which is not apposite to our case, and must throw as much as possible into the first line. They have no real second line and would have to bring up reserves in support, and, under their system, they would bring them up from the depths of the nation itself which is trained for war. But with us, fortunately for ourselves, we retain, and we mean to keep, the command of the seas. We are in a position to be sure that if we have this command, and if we possess a small, but well-equipped Army ready to take the field in defence of any part of the Empire, and if we have behind that a second line distinct from that Army, we may then have a sense of considerable safety. We have this which stands out and distinguishes our case from that of all other nations. We need a first line which, compared with that of other nations, may be small in quantity, because it has to operate in the main across the seas, but which for that very reason must be very high in quality. It must be professional. Behind that we should have a second line resting in the nation itself, slumbering in times of peace, although prepared to be called upon only in times of supreme national emergency, but there when it is wanted for the defence of our shores and for the expansion and support of the Army abroad. Therefore it seems to me the true organisation for this country is an organisation in two lines, not three lines. So far as we can at present be said to have any organisation, our mistake has been that we attempted to make it in three lines—the first, professional; the second, semi-professional, I mean the Militia; and the third, the Volunteer organisation, purely voluntary. What has been the result? Each has been starved by the others. Our first line is full of gaps; our second line is decadent because it is not possible to find men and money sufficient; and the third line is totally disorganised because the military talent has flowed so largely into the other lines. Instead of having a homogeneous organisation we have got a confused mass of troops coming under these three heads, but with no place in a definite military scheme.

On behalf of the Government I am going to make an appeal that goes beyond this House of Parliament to the nation. I am going to appeal to the nation to recognise that it is only in two lines that we can successfully organise if we are to have anything near perfection in military organisation, and that it is only by making sacrifices, because sacrifices will be required, that we can carry out the reforms which are necessary to put ourselves in a position of fighting efficiency. We shall have to call upon the Auxiliary Forces to give up many traditions, to remould themselves and to be prepared for war as completely and thoroughly as the first line. This is the key to the proposition I have to submit. I cannot say I approach this task without diffidence, but the diffidence would have been greater had the results of twelve months' pretty hard labour fallen upon myself alone. I have had the assistance of the best brains in the British Army and the co-operation—the cordial co-operation—of my colleagues on the Army Council. We had our different points of view and have adjusted them in getting this scheme, which I believe represents the best mode practicable of solving the national problem. Then the whole matter has been thoroughly tested and sifted by the Defence Committee, so that we have the opinion, not only of soldiers inside the War Office, but of distinguished soldiers outside. Last year we took the preliminary step, which had become clearly necessary, of organising our first line into six divisions and four cavalry brigades. That was embodied in the Army Order published on 1st January, and although the units are there and the organisation is there, and although preparations are rapidly being concluded which will put that first line into a condition of readiness, yet there are gaps—gaps which were not caused by me, but which I have inherited, and my predecessors have inherited from the days when people in this country were slack in military matters and did not pay that attention to them which the highly scientific problem of to-day will require.

I have no hesitation in making known these things to the public because, although the British public may not be familiar with them, they are well known to the general staffs in the Rue St. Dominique and in the Thiergarten. One is revealing no secret when one goes into detail of the shortcomings affecting the first and second line with a view of doing all that is in the power of the Government to set them right. As I have said, we settle upon six divisions and four cavalry brigades of 160,000 men and officers as the strength and the size of the first line. Some persons will say, "Why fix on this force? Up to now we have never talked of more than the mobilising of 100,000 or 120,000 men; now you are proposing to mobilise 160,000 men." The answer to that is very simple; I have all these men for another reason than that of putting them into these divisions. I have them here to supply drafts for the battalions in India and the Colonies. I have not learned that my right hon. friend the Secretary for India is prepared to ask me to withdraw any of the fifty-two battalions which he has already from me for the purposes of India, and which he has had much on that scale from the time of the Mutiny. We have reduced the number of troops in the Colonies across the sea by eight battalions, and they may be reduced still more in the future. I cannot tell—that depends on considerations of policy; but I have to keep a sufficient force to supply the drafts for the battalions abroad. Whether you do it in accordance with the Cardwell system or whether you do it through depots, you have to find the drafts to keep these battalions abroad alive. Therefore we have felt ourselves justified, and more than justified, seeing that we have the material there, in putting it into the most useful form possible, and we have done it, leaving a considerable margin over, so that if further reductions are to come—I am not saying that they are coming—we have a margin on which we can draw with the least disturbance to the organisation I am proposing. From the point of view of economy and efficiency, it is the best thing we can do to put the material into some sort of arrangement. It has been often asked, "Is such a force in accordance with the requirements of the Empire?" I have never been able to work out the standard of the requirements of the Empire. Given a peaceful policy, we hope that these requirements will be very small, and we ought to keep them as small as we can; but at any time clouds may come over the horizon, and therefore we ought to keep something in reserve. But, although we are not laying down any standard of requirements for the Empire, we are seeking to keep together a force which is better prepared for war than any force which we have hitherto had, and that seems to me the first step to be taken in order to satisfy the requirements of the Empire. It gives, at all events, more than at the present time, while one is prejudicing nothing and no principle. I should define the obligation of the War Office to be to keep this force of six divisions and four cavalry brigades with their military administative services in an efficient condition for mobilisation, and to maintain them for a period of at least six months. After six months drafts are found by the ordinary machinery of war. It does not follow that we shall use the whole of that force at once, and therefore we hope to spread out its use for a larger period of time. But with the wastage of war one feels that at the end of six months the resources of the War Office may be at an end with that amount of men, and then an appeal must be made to the nation itself. We ought to give the nation itself an organisation which imperceptibly in time of peace may enable it to come forth in a moment of supreme emergency and support and expand the force that has gone over sea. The obligation ought to be two-fold. First of all, the Government should have ready this force of six divisions and four cavalry brigades and keep it alive through regular machinery for six months, and after that the nation should be prepared to do its part. That aid should come, through channels which should be provided for it beforehand, to the support and the expansion of the professional Army of the country.

There is one other important consideration wholly overlooked in our organisation. It is a point which has not been applied in practice. It is this—that in modern war the combined action of the various arms is vital and essential. Suppose the infantry are attacking a position against the modern breech-loader with smokeless powder. It is hopeless to expect that any men could get across an open strip of country to make a frontal attack. Their only chance of success is that the artillery should first of all help by pouring shrapnel into the enemy's trenches, and thus enable our own infantry to get up. On the other hand, it is impossible to prepare for these things without the use of cavalry, the purpose of which is to operate far ahead of the lines of the Army, to locate the position of the enemy, and, if possible, induce him to show himself. Therefore, you require a combination of the three arms in their proper proportion, and such an adjustment is just as essential as it is in the case of the household I have but lately described. You must have these things, not in excess, but in their proper proportion, so that the one can operate to the support of the other. We have defined the amount of artillery for the field artillery of these six divisions and four cavalry brigades, and we have defined the proportions in which the cavalry, artillery, and infantry should stand one to the other; and to these proportions, in the opinion of the General Staff, we should hold. In passing I may say that we are realising the enormous advantage of the General Staff. Without the General Staff it is impossible to work out and to solve these problems. We used to operate in a slap-dash way in the old days, and the result was confusion. The General Staff is the brain of the Army, which thinks out these problems; and it is to the General Staff that we owe the organisation which I am going to describe and to suggest as the means by which the requirements are to be fulfilled.

Bearing in mind that it is only through the better combination of arms that infantry can be made effective with the requisite proportions of artillery and cavalry, let me take stock of what the nation has, with a view to seeing whether we have anything like a satisfactory organisation for war. I begin with the second line, because I can come back to the first line after I have sketched the background. I take first the materials which we have got for rendering possible the formation of the second line with the proper proportions of cavalry, artillery, infantry, and administrative services; and I will see what are the deficiences that exist in the present arrangement. I take first the Militia. Now the Militia is the oldest force in this country. It is a force with many traditions, and it goes to one's heart to note what the scrutiny has disclosed as inevitable. The Militia must undergo a great transformation before anything can be said to justify the £2,000,000 which the nation is spending on them at the present time. Their material can be made useful, but great changes will be required, as will be seen from the present position. They have no cavalry, no artillery; and therefore the Militia by themselves would be useless for the kind of warfare which we have at the present time, except that they could be used in supplement of the Regular infantry units. They have an establishment of 131,000 men, but their strength is only 94,000 men. They are deficient in a thousand officers, and their cost is going up. Ten years ago the cost was £14 per man; now it is £22; so that while they are steadily increasing in cost per head they are steadily decreasing in the efficiency of their units. Of their battalions, of which there are 124, forty-six are under 500 strong. But that does not disclose the worst feature of the organisation. Many battalions have enlisted youths who are only about seventeen years of age because they could not be taken into the Line; and these youths would be useless for war. If we had to send the Militia abroad, and if these youths volunteered to go, we could not, as a rule, send those who were under twenty; and as a large number are under twenty, the battalions are in reality much under their apparent strength. That is a deplorable state of things. That is a force which is not yielding anything like what you would expect from the men who compose it, and who, through no fault of their own, are condemned to impotence. The public spirit of the country gentlemen of this country about the state of the Militia shows the pains they still take to struggle with their difficulties, while it is impossible not to recognise the gallantry which the officers and men have shown in the past. It is painful to see that the nation has condemned the Militia to a state of things which steadily makes for the degradation and the incapacity of the force to be useful. When one asks for the causes one finds a simple explanation—namely, the greater necessity, almost the paramount importance, of the first line of the professional Army. The professional Army must be kept alive; and accordingly by sure and slow degrees the Militia have been made the hewers of wood and the drawers of water to the Regular forces. Lord Lansdowne in a debate not long ago said—

> "The Militia has been plundered at one end by the Line and encroached on at the other by the Volunteers."

The War Office has been powerless to remedy this serious state of affairs. It is essential to the War Office to get recruits for the Regular Line. We get 12,000 recruits a year for the infantry of the Line from the Militia at present, and without the Militia we could not get them. These recruits go into the Militia young, and the Line takes them up when they reach the age at which they can go to the Line. The result is that under the existing system the War Office must control the Militia. It is impossible to get away from that, and if the Militia protests against it, the protest is met with the argument that the most important thing is to get the infantry of the Line sufficiently recruited, and if one has to suffer the Militia must go under. I think that the state of the Militia demonstrates the impossibility of organising three lines of which two shall be professional. The Militia do not come any more from the county only. They are recruited in all parts of the kingdom. They come to get a job. They are professional soldiers for the time they are engaged, and the result is that the tendency of the nation has been more and more to say that as we pay for these men, they must go where we most need them—the service of the Regular Line—and the conclusion we have come to is that the only solution of the Militia problem is one of two things; either the Militia must be available for drafts, or else they must revert once more to their old county place and give up their present professional substance. They must give up to the service of the Line the men who have been enlisted for six years, and who go out for a certain period every year and are paid while they are out as professional soldiers, and must look out for recruits—I will not say on a Volunteer basis, but on something better than a Volunteer basis—men who give service not on a professional footing, but on a footing of voluntary service rendered to the nation and inspired by the spirit of the country in which they live. The Militia ought to go back to the position which it occupied at the end of the eighteenth century, before Pitt connected it as closely as he did with the Regular Line. If the Militia could go back to that kind of basis, there would be much to be said for it. After all, such a force as I am describing, a peace force required and, to be prepared only for great emergencies, is a thing not that inspires the spirit of militarism, but that deepens the sense of responsibility. We should all be glad to see some interest in military affairs made possible for the agricultural labourers, who are cut off at present on the one hand from the Volunteers, and on the other hand from the Militia, where the period of service is too long for them. We should all be glad if the counties could go back to the old condition under which the country gentleman had the young labourers on his estate and round about working with him in his own voluntarily raised battalion. So the proposal of the Government which I shall develop in detail later, is that the Militia, parting with their professional substance for the service of the Line to be used by machinery which comes later, shall take their cadres over into the second Line, and there, under a proper organisation, form part of the infantry of the second Line.

Now I come to the Yeomanry, whom I can deal with very shortly because they are in a much more satisfactory position. They were reorganised in 1901. They have fifty-six corps, and their number is something over 26,000 of all ranks. Their cost is a little over £21 a head, and £5 for horse allowance, with 5s. 6d. a day paid to each man when training, the annual training extending over a period of from fourteen to eighteen days besides the preliminary training. On the other hand, they have no brigade organisation, no staff nor administrative service connected with them. If we came to war nobody would quite know where to put them. There, again, you have an illustration of the fashion in which our Auxiliary Forces, which ought to be our national second line, have grown up like mushrooms, without plan, without regard to efficiency or economy, with the result that a vast amount of public money has been thrown away by Ministry after Ministry, and very little added to the fighting strength of the nation, tested according to modern scientific standards. In the Yeomanry all one can say is that one has got here an element which may form the cavalry, or the nucleus of the cavalry, of the second line, and which may be adapted on such a footing as to make it render a far more immediate service than the infantry in their present condition could possibly perform.

I come now to the Volunteers, the third element which is available for the second line, with an establishment of 338,000, and an actual strength of about 247,000. They cost the nation nearly £1,800,000. They have a certain amount of administrative services connected with them, the Army Medical and Army Service Corps, but these are altogether in insufficient proportions. Their organisation, I think, is probably the most confused thing we have in the British constitution. They are paid in twenty-two different ways. They get a capitation grant of 35s., which is practically a premium on the enlistment of inefficients. They have no supply organisation for war. If they were at war the colonel, whose business it is to provide socks, clothes, ammunition, and everything else, would have to carry these things with him in his saddle-bags. The financial position of the commanding officers is deplorable. The unfortunate commanding officer of the Volunteer battalion is an even greater patriot than is popularly supposed. He risks not only his life, but his fortune. If he wants a drill hall for his corps and borrows money to enable him to build, the Commissioners lend him money, but make him personally liable. If he does not get a capitation grant and his corps fails then he has to make these things good. We propose to deal with this point drastically if the House will allow us. We propose to remove the financial liability from these commanding officers and set them free to do their work of commanding and training their corps. There is a Supplementary Estimate which I have put down in connection with this matter which looks as if it contained something very serious, but only contains something which is very innocent. I will explain it. By careful administration last year we saved a good deal of money which we did not spend. I went to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and said, Here is the grand plan of the Government; it may go through or not. If it goes through, then it is absolutely right and essential that we should relieve these unfortunate commanding officers of this responsibility for public purposes, and make the halls free for the use of the second line. If, on the other hand, it does not go through, I said to my right hon. friend, I propose doing something which must remind him and myself of old days. We arranged to take a transfer—an equitable transfer—from the Public Works Loan Commissioners of their debt, paying them off £400,000 odd, owed to them for debts for Volunteer halls. In the Supplementary Estimates we ask the House only to sanction this transfer to the War Office. If the scheme goes through the money will go to a purpose on which, I think, we are mainly agreed. If not, no loss will be incurred by the State. At the present time of those who enlist in the Volunteer corps 80 per cent. are artisans. In the old days the Volunteer corps were a middle class organisation, and found nearly everything for themselves. To-day the case is different. I think it is much better if we are to have a real second line that we should be in earnest about it, and should find them equipment and endeavour to make the Volunteer element in the second line as real and efficient as we can; and that is what we propose to do. We propose to take a definite and easy mode of enlistment, very much like that of the Yeomanry, and that the Volunteer should go out, on proper notice being given, something like three months. In that way we should get security in his services for the amount we have spent upon him. I will deal with that when I come to what I have to say about the organisation of this second line.

Of that organisation I wish to add this—that, having got these three elements, the Volunteers, the Yeomanry, and the Militia, and our problem being to convert them into a real second line, the first thing that is necessary is that we must do it thoroughly. No tinkering of this matter is of any use. We must have the different arms in their proper proportion, and we must follow as far as we can the standard and canons of modern organisation for war in determining the shape which the organisation should take. In order to get a proper organisation for war of all arms in their proper combination what is the obvious thing for us to do? I do not think there can be a doubt about it. It is—what has not yet been done—to apply divisional organisation to the second line. The division is the only unit in which all arms are combined and in their proper proportion A divisional organisation enables you to have a definite plan by which you can test and see whether each part of your forces is in proper condition. The General Staff have made a careful survey for this purpose, and they find that we have the materials available. It would be odd if it were not so; for between nineteen and twenty-four years of age there are upwards of a million young men available for the second line, after the requirements of the Navy and the Regular Army have been satisfied. Three hundred thousand would be within the number we have now in the Auxiliary Forces, and if properly organised they would be a force infinitely more useful than the present organisation, which has been condemned by eminent soldiers, to whom the Government has submitted consideration of it, as useless for the purpose of modern military necessities. It is a hard condemnation, which makes, however, not the least reflection on the commanding officers or men of the Auxiliary Forces. It is the way in which we have let them drift into the present position without taking thought that has produced the sterility and impotence of their organisation and let it grow in a fashion which has in it neither plan nor reason. The General Staff in its survey has found that a divisional organisation is possible. As those interested in military matters in the House of Commons know, Great Britain is divided for purposes of military administration into twelve grouped regimental districts, each containing four or five counties, and several depôts. Each regimental district is under the command of the brigadier at present commanding the forces in each of those twelve grouped regimental districts. The General Staff has made a survey, with a view of seeing what they contained; and we find this remarkable result—each of them contains very nearly the materials for a division, and some of them contain a good deal more. Indeed, out of the Lancashire and London districts we ought to be able to get two divisions, and out of the others in nearly every case, a complete division out of the material we have ready to hand. Of course I cannot tell what the response to the new organisation will be; but if, as I believe, it appeals to the sentiment of the Auxiliary Forces, if, as I believe they will, the Militia, Yeomanry and Volunteer commanding officers rise to it, then I believe we shall get the men.

I have occupied such little time as I have been able to spare from the somewhat heavy task in which I have been engaged in going about nominally and ostensibly to distribute prizes for Volunteers and making speeches, which I fear have somewhat bored the country, but really for the purpose of conferring with Volunteer commanding officers; and I tried to get into as close relations with commanding officers of Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteers as possible. I found a recognition on all hands that the present state of things was deplorable, and a readiness to make an effort at amendment. I feel, of course, that in the division of opinion there are many commanding officers who will feel the change very much, and who may fight against the departure from their old organisation. I cannot tell. But not one of them fails to recognise, as much as we recognise, that if there is to be a real second line in this country sacrifices have to be made which may well be called for, because the interests of the nation must predominate over the interests of anything in the nation. The survey the General Staff has made shows that in each of the twelve grouped regimental districts in Great Britain—Ireland requiring separate treatment—there is material for a division exactly analogous to the divisions into which we have organised the first line—that is to say, a division of three brigades, each of which contain four battalions. London and Lancashire districts will give two. Scotland will give us two magnificent divisions. I have had to make up my mind between having three from Scotland, which would not have fitted into the scheme of the grouping of regimental districts, or having two very strong ones; and I was naturally attracted by the prospect of having a Highland and a Lowland division; and I hope we shall organise two divisions in Scotland at a higher strength than elsewhere. We may well keep them at a higher strength, because Scotland is a part of the country which has fewer Regular troops of its own than any other part of the United Kingdom; and we have, on the other hand, a most magnificent surplus of second line material north of the Tweed.

That being the organisation I should like to say something about it. The fourteen divisions of Infantry, with three brigades of four battalions each, give the equivalent of forty-two brigades of four battalions, or 168 battalions. The existing Yeomanry if they are taken in for this purpose give us an equivalent of fourteen brigades of Cavalry, with the necessary divisional element. There are fifty-six regiments of Yeomanry, as I have said. We can get our fourteen brigades there if they will respond to our appeal. The Artillery we require for the Territorial force is perhaps the point on which there is the largest deficiency. The Volunteers, where armed at all, are armed with ridiculous and obsolete guns. But on taking stock we find that the old field guns exist in large numbers in very good condition and can be converted into quick-firers at comparatively little expense. A battery can be converted for somewhat under £1,000 to make it complete. The result is that we propose to arm the Territorial Artillery with good fifteen-pounders, and convert these as rapidly as we can into quick-firers. We have taken an estimate of £10,000 for the purpose of making a beginning, and thereby we hope to organise the Artillery of the second line, so that it may be real Artillery proportionate to the other arms. Our advisers tell us that these old field guns will be very good indeed, all excellent field guns and admirably adapted to the second line. Our plan is never to allow the second line to have obsolete weapons; but as we take weapons away from the first line, where we must always be keeping up to the highest standard, to pass then on to the second line, so that although they are the second best they shall be a close second best, and not a remote second best. Economically, and by degrees, we shall thus always be raising the armament of the second line. An army cannot go to war without its non-combatant units, without its army service corps, its army medical corps, its engineers, its telegraphists, its railway men. Where do you get a more magnificent field for drawing these elements from than in the second line? You have got the highest technical skill among the very men who belong to your Volunteer corps. No finer Engineers than those commanded by Colonel Crompton, or those in some of the Engineer corps in the North, are to be found. I doubt whether the Engineers of the line can compete with them in knowledge and intelligence. You have among them a great reserve not only of men, but also of officers of the very highest technical skill. And what is true of them is true of the Army Service Corps and the Army Medical Corps—magnificent corps — and the other technical services required for the mobilisation of an army. Nothing can be done with an army going to war without proper transport and supply, proper medical equipment, proper technical and scientific arrangements. Wireless telegraphy, the telephone, every modern invention from the balloon downwards, is brought into requisition in these days, and without its technical services an Army is incomplete. When we build up our second line we shall have in view the first line and its requirements in these respects, and take some of these non-combatant men, and train them in the second line, making them supernumerary to their corps, bringing them over along what I may call a bridge from the second line to the first on mobilisation, so that we may get more men for the first line at much less expense than if we placed them on a professional footing. In nations where they have compulsory service they take men according to their trade, so that we should be doing exactly what the great continental nations do. What is more natural than that we should come to the nation itself in the second line, which is the home army of peace, but prepared for emergency, and ask them to prepare for those services which they can give at much less cost than in the organisation of our first line ? The House will see how this proposal to organise in two lines, having a definite relation one to another, over what we call bridges from the second to the first line, substantially promises not only to promote efficiency, but also to dimish cost. What we hope to get is fourteen divisions of the second line as complete in every detail as the first line.

Coming to the terms of service, the Volunteers hitherto could go out at fourteen days notice in time of peace; but should war break out there was for them no such beneficent provision as existed in the case of the Regular, the Militia, or the Yeomanry. They, after a certain time, had finished their service, although their term might be prolonged for a short period for war; but the wretched Volunteer, once caught in the trap of war, was compelled to remain there, so far as any legal power to retire was concerned, until death released him. What we propose is that the recruits of the second line shall come in on the footing that will meet their civilian conditions in a more definite and more reasonable manner than with the Volunteers. It cannot be a long term as in the case of Regulars, nor yet so short a term as in the arrangements with the Volunteers. The Yeomanry are, after all, a sort of Volunteers, though they come in because they wish to serve the State. The Yeomanry force affords us the best type for our purpose, and we propose that the new line shall enlist their recruits on something akin to the terms on which the Yeomanry come in at the present time. Now, as regards the appropriate period, we propose that a man should come in between eighteen and twenty-four years of age, and that he may undertake to train in four years, subject to this, that if he is minded to go, by reason of shifting of occupation, of his getting married or something of that kind, he can do so, on giving three months notice, and paying a small sum of something like £5 compensation to the State for the amount spent on his training. It is quite right that the State should get some security for the money it spends on recruits, but we have tried to make the terms sufficiently elastic to meet the social necessities of the recruits. I do not want to dwell on this part of the subject, because it is all to be embodied in a Bill which I hope to introduce next week and on which a discussion will probably arise. I, therefore, pass from it now with this reference, that if we get them to come in for the four years training, some of them may wish to stay, and then they would cost less, because they would be able to do with less training and would form a reserve line of the corps. I have never thought the word "Reserve" appropriate for a body whose training is intermittent, but if you are to use them as a reserve they will be men who have taken sufficient training to remain on the strength, or at any rate to remain supernumaries of their corps. In order to keep up to their level of training they will take much less annual camp training than the soldier of the second line must necessarily take in his early days.

We propose to organise this force upon the county basis, and the reason why we do so is that the county is the most convenient administrative area for the purpose. Under the county basis, we hope to find that we shall be able to affiliate the rifle clubs, which are somewhat unorganised at the present time, unconnected as they are with corps. We propose to bring them into definite relations with the battalions of this second line, in each county, and to make these rifle clubs places where the recruit who has gone in for four years training may practice musketry, and where a man who has gone through his four years may keep up his musketry. We hope for great assistance from the rifle clubs, if we make them adjuncts of the organisation instead of part of it, and so bring them into the discharge of useful and necessary functions.

Then as regards the period of annual training, the men will go into camp, or into what is equivalent to camp, much as they do at the present time, and we hope to bring them into close contact with the Regulars on those occasions. The camp will be for a period of fifteen days wherever that is possible. Many of them will not be able to give so long a time, many will not be able to give more than eight days, but we will take them, rather than not have them, for that period. Where we can get these men to come forward we hope that they will come for fifteen days and thereby get substantial preparation. But there is another feature on which we rely still more than upon the amount of annual training and the preliminary training, and that is that we propose to make it part of the terms on which a second line soldier engages himself, should there be a great mobilisation and the nation be plunged into war, not to go abroad, because his service is for the United Kingdom only, but that he is to be embodied to train for war. We propose that if a great war were to break out, and the strength of the nation was called on, measured by the necessity of calling out all the Regular Reserve, the second line should be mobilised in its units, and be embodied for war training for six months. And our belief is that at the end of that time (and in this we are confirmed by a high military authority) not only would they be enormously more efficient than the Volunteer or Yeomanry Force is at the present time, but that they would be ready, finding themselves in their units, to say—"We wish to go abroad and take our part in the theatre of war, to fight in the interests of the nation and for the defence of the Empire." It might be that they would not only go in their battalions, but in their brigades, and even divisions. If given the occasion I do not know that there is any limit to the spirit of our people when the necessity is upon them. At any rate they will have that opportunity. Our principle is purely voluntary enlistment. Compulsion is remote from our mind, and I trust it will always be so. Nor do we wish to encourage anything like excessive military spirit, and we feel this, that we can best prevent these contingencies by making use of the voluntary contribution of the nation of its manhood and its strength, on such a footing, that if war break out, their engagement will become a serious responsibility, thereby making them, on the one hand, a source of strength to the nation, and, on the other hand, making them disinclined light to take upon themselves the perils and horrors of war which would confront them. We think that this plan of embodying the second line for mobilisation for war training, and leaving them free to volunteer, is something which will give a sufficient sense of seriousness, and that there is not a man who joins but will feel disinclined to omit any effort in his power to prevent a state of things that might separate him from his wife and family and home, and make him compelled to take upon himself the serious responsibilities of war. The engagement would therefore be to enlist for four years, with power to go out after three months notice, and to be embodied in time of war for six months training. That is the very essence of the proposals for increasing the efficiency of the second line, and that is the only way in which we can hope to give to it the real character which it ought to possess. In that way we hope to produce a real second line.

Such a force, of course, will require to be instructed in time of peace, during the intervals between camp and camp, and there we think the county organisation lends itself to the purpose. We shall have instructors who will go from centre to centre on their bicycles, gathering in the young men belonging to the corps, on the village green in summer, and in the schoolhouse in winter, and giving them instruction on a more scientific footing than the Volunteer receives to-day, and than the Yeomanry has at the present time. In that way we hope to raise a force on a county basis which will be a real contribution to the second line. The great feature is the six months training for war mobilisation. Hitherto the puzzle has been how to get a sufficient training for a Volunteer second line fitted for serious duty. A man may not be able to undertake training for such a long period as six months. We have proceeded on the footing of getting very much greater efficiency than anything we ever had in the past. The duties of the force will be, shortly, to garrison the naval ports, and to take the place of Regular troops and garrison Artillery and garrison Engineers, who will probably go abroad on a great mobilisation. I say a great mobilisation, because although it may be unlikely, yet it is a sort of thing for which we must be prepared. In any great mobilisation the garrison fortresses would be manned, as, indeed, at present they would be, by Auxiliary troops. The second duty will be to repel raids. There has been a great deal of discussion about the Blue Water school. For my part I never thought that the right hon. Gentleman opposite, the late Prime Minister, when he made his speech about the raids being very small, intended to say that a second line would be of no advantage; on the contrary, I think he meant to convey that if the Navy were kept up to its strength so as to command the sea, we could be content to allow a second line to slumber in time of peace, if only we were adequately prepared for war. Raids might be serious things, and it is always possible that a considerable force might be got over. Therefore, although we rest on the Blue Water system, I do not think there is any less necessity to bring about a state of things in which our second line should be a reality. The third function will be the one I have described—a purely voluntary function. The undertaking will be to serve only in the United Kingdom, but such is the strength and spirit of the nation, of which we had an example at the time of the South African war, for instance, that I myself do not doubt that if this second line was embodied for mobilisation in time of war in its units, they would express their wish, at the conclusion of the six months, to go out in large numbers to the theatre of war, possibly in divisions, and so serve for that expansion and that support of which the Norfolk and the Elgin Commissions said so much. Of course, our proposal is to organise them in units, and we do think there is a possibility of expansion. It may be said that it is speculation, that the Auxiliary forces will come forward and respond to the appeal to organise themselves. I admit it is speculation, but one is bound to take some chance in these matters and make some appeal. It is the last effort to get forward upon the sort of line which we have to follow, and I believe it is because our people have objected to take compulsory service, because they have always said that they are ready, if appealed to in the right spirit, to respond to the appeal, that the Auxiliary Forces will come forward in numbers even in excess of what we are asking, and give us a force which in time of peace need not exceed a quarter of a million, and in time of war would reach the strength of 300,000.

For the purpose of working out the problem how to get from each county its quota for the divisions, for the group of regimental districts, I come now to the new piece of machinery, which I will only shortly describe, for the obvious reason that it is the subject of the Bill I shall have to introduce. We propose to create a military committee in each county, composed of commanding officers of Auxiliary Forces, with the addition of such elements as will be necessary to bring the Regular Forces into touch with the Auxiliary Forces. We must, therefore, have the General Staff, through its brigadiers, represented upon the associations. The lord lieutenant of the county will in each case be the president of these county associations. I will tell the House why. It is not merely for the old technical and constitutional reason that the lord lieutenant is the military representative of the Crown in the county. It is not merely that we desire to turn him a little from his present magisterial to his old military functions. But it is that we feel that he is the link with the landowners of the county, and it is from the landowners we hope to get much help and great saving to the public in our new organisation. We need manœuvre areas; we need rifle ranges. The other day, in organising the great cavalry manœuvres in Scotland, it was my duty to make an appeal to the great landowners in that country; but without pressing the appeal I am glad to say they came forward most generously and offered us more land than we needed for those particular manœuvres. I believe that if you take the country gentlemen in the right way, if you get them to interest themselves in this new organisation, they will respond to your appeal, they will make their lands available in every way, and show that their public spirit is as strong as ever it was in days of yore. Therefore, we think it very important that the lord lieutenant, representing the country gentlemen from whom we hope so much for the good of the State, should be the president of the county association. Then we propose that the constitution of these county associations should vary with each county. We call them "associations" because that is a good old term invented by Oliver Cromwell. They represented in those days functions which we expect the new bodies to fulfil in our time. We want them to organise the county quota of the division, and to do the administrative work of the forces in the division. Therefore, we propose that in each county the association should be constituted by a scheme worked out by the Army Council. There will be a different scheme for each county, and it will be possible under that scheme to get proper representation of labour as well as of capital, for we must keep ourselves in close relationship with the artisan classes as well as the employing classes in the working out of this scheme. The functions of these associations are military functions. But even so they are functions not connected with command and training, which we propose to separate altogether from administration. Administration means the raising of the force, the finding of supplies, the provision of the necessities for a campaign, the payment of money, the furnishing of weapons, and so on. The command of the troops and their training will be delegated to the commanding officers of the new units—the officers who correspond with the existing Militia, Yeomanry, and Volunteer commanding officers. They will be under their brigadiers and their divisional commanders, with their general in command as their supreme chief. But the administration, the spending of the money, which will be furnished by the War Office—for we make no appeal to the rates—on estimates carefully scrutinised, will be in the hands of the associations, who will employ it in providing their corps with all necessary equipments. Thus the commanding officers will be fully relieved not only of debts incurred by their corps, but of the burden of administration which at present weighs heavily upon them. In short, the duty of the county associations will be to look after the business side of the second-line troops of the county, and they will have, in addition to the lord lieutenant as president, business men as chairman and secretary, who will carefully deal with all matters delegated to them by the Army Council. The chief duty, therefore, of the county association will be to re-arrange the existing Auxiliary Forces within the county area, and get them into such a shape that the county may supply the quota which it is to provide to the divisional organisation. The quota will necessarily differ. One county may be strong in cavalry, another in artillery, and a third in infantry. The thing is that the authorities should study the idiosyncrasies of each locality and take what the locality can most readily and easily give. Of course, the new force must be represented at the War Office, and our proposal is that there should be a committee to represent the interests of this Home or Territorial Army. But that will not be the only connection of the troops of the county with headquarters. Who is to command these divisions? There will come a time when, no doubt, they will be commanded by civilians who have so trained themselves that they are able to control great bodies of troops. I look forward to a time when the brigadiers, at all events, and possibly the divisional generals, will come from the ranks of the Auxiliary Forces. But we want to make this thing a scientific reality in the first instance, and therefore we think it better that we should put on the very best men we have, and men who will give their whole time to the work. Accordingly, to begin with, we propose that each of the fourteen divisions shall be commanded by a Regular major-general, who will give his whole time to his duties and who will have his Regular general staff officer, and his Regular administrative staff officer. The brigadiers may in time, no doubt, be got from the Territorial Force. We shall start, however, with the existing brigadiers; and we hope that by degrees we shall make this force more and more a really civilian military force. This, then, is the second line, which is to be behind the first line, and, as the House will see, it is a line which, if our hopes are realised, will have its proper proportion of all arms; and in the event of mobilisation will be ready to be called out for its six months training for war. Of course, this is not a standing Army. It is rather the last resource of the nation in a time of great emergency.

I now come back to the field force, the first line, because I am now in a position to place it before the House and explain what we require for the organisation of six great divisions of three brigades. We require for the six divisions, so far as infantry is concerned, sixty-six Line battalions, and six of Guards. Of course, I am now only speaking of the Home field force, and not of the fifty-two battalions in India, and twenty-five battalions in the Colonies, which remain as at present. We actually have at home seventy-one battalions of infantry and eight of Guards. Thus we have a surplus of five battalions of infantry and two of Guards; and that notwithstanding that we made a reduction last summer of nine battalions—eight of infantry and one of Guards. The House will now see why I made these reductions. I am coming to great deficiencies and gaps in the first line which I have had to fill. At the present moment, out of the 227,000 men we have at home, counting the Reserve, it would not be possible to mobilise more than 100,000 men, for want of ammunition columns, administration services, transport, Army Medical Corps, and so forth. Never has the Army been subjected to such a stocktaking as in the last twelve months. It was carried out by the soldiers themselves with great zeal. We have found that our first line is full of gaps, and we feel that our main duty is to fill up those gaps in such a way as to make that first line efficient. I doubt very much whether you can mobilise 100,000 men at the present time. I know that a foreign General Staff—I do not know what the German view is; I am talking of another—consider that we could not mobilise nearly as many. But, at any rate, you cannot put it higher than 100,000. If these plans succeed we shall be able to mobilise 160,000. We require sixty-six battalions; we have got seventy-one; so that there are five left. If it should be necessary to take off more, I am well within what I have to keep up. So much for infantry, of which we have a surplus.

Now I come to cavalry. We require four brigades, or twelve regiments. I ought to remind the House that we have published the new organisation of our cavalry, which has been completed. The cavalry now works in three sections. There is one section, called strategical cavalry, which operates away in advance of the line of the Army in the field; it operates not only directly on the enemy, but may operate on his flank. Its purpose is to keep in touch with the enemy, to make him disclose himself, and to make reconnaissances on a sufficient scale to locate the enemy for the purposes of the plans of he general commanding the main body of the Army. It cannot do the screen work, for which we have a second section, which works with mounted infantry and with a certain amount of artillery. This is the true screen, to use the old fashioned expression, between the main body of the army and the enemy. Then the third section of the cavalry is the divisional cavalry, which does the work which has to be done with the troops and at headquarters. For the strategical cavalry we require four brigades, or twelve regiments, and two brigades of horse artillery. Military members know that a brigade of horse artillery has only two batteries; that means, therefore, four batteries of horse artillery. The second section, the screen cavalry, consists of two brigades, according to the general staff plans, each consisting of two battalions of mounted infantry and one cavalry regiment, and, operating with each brigade, one battery of horse artillery. The third section of the cavalry consists of fifteen squadrons of Yeomanry, and they are to form the divisional cavalry for the future. They are Yeomanry who are supernumerary to the es ablishmen of the Yeomanry in their present corps. Each regiment is to furnish us with a troop, and we get fifteen squadrons in that way which are to go out on mobilisation with the Regulars and operate as divisional cavalry. To meet the twelve regiments which we want for the strategical cavalry we have thirteen regiments of cavalry and a competent regiment of Household Cavalry. That gives us two regiments over—just what is wanted in forming the second section of cavalry. Then for the Yeomanry we have got the fifteen squadrons, so that as regards cavalry we are just right.

In the case of Artillery the tale is not so satisfactory. According to the final working out of the requirements of the General Staff for the six divisions, the

Artillery which are wanted to make the infantry of these divisions effective to conduct its general operations—I am talking of field, not horse artillery—will be as follows:—The artillery consists of fifty-four batteries of field artillery, twelve batteries of howitzers, and six batteries of heavy 60-pounders. I am glad to say these last are the most magnificent guns, as far as my judgment goes, I have ever seen; they are complete and are giving the utmost satisfaction. These are manned by garrison artillerymen; they have a range of something like 13,000 yards, and are of 5 inch diameter. That makes seventy-two batteries in all wanted for the six divisions. We have ninety-nine batteries of field artillery and six of heavy guns, making 105 in all. Therefore we have a surplus in artillery of guns over what is required for the divisions, a surplus of thirty-three batteries. On the other hand we are very short of the ammunition columns to man them. The House will realise that artillery organisation, owing to the introduction of quick-firing guns, is a wholly different thing from what it used to be. You have a battery with its men intrenched in their pits, you have the shrapnel bursting overhead, so that the men serving the guns are in the greatest peril, and you require the very highest trained men you can get. They have a certain amount of ammunition in each battery, but it soon runs out with the modern quick-firer, and they have to depend on the next source of supply—the brigade ammunition column. That is a small one, and is to bring up the ammunition from the rear, and it brings it up with the aid of men a large proportion of whom are drivers. These drivers have to come under fire, and, therefore, must be highly trained. The particular question which the general staff has under consideration is as to what extent in the brigade ammunition column you can bring in Militia-trained men. We are considering that, and have not come to a final decision upon it. I have not, therefore, been able to do what I intimated I hoped I should be able to do—to substitute to a moderate extent for certain at least of our Regular artillerymen 2,000 or 3,000 artillery men trained on a Militia basis. I wanted these men, not for serving guns, but as drivers bringing up ammunition in the brigade ammunition column. Whether this can be done or not remains to be seen. The closest investigation is going on, because we think this is a matter of such seriousness that we ought not to run any risk. My own belief is that it can be done to some extent, but I think it right to go very cautiously in this matter. We must know first exactly how far we can go, and consequently I have not reduced a single Regular artilleryman at present. The shortage is due to the three-years system, which has made it impossible to find the drafts. The surplus batteries which we do not want for the divisional organisation we are going to use as training batteries in which to train men for the divisional ammunition column. Of course training batteries do not require so many horses as Regular batteries for service in the field. The training batteries will have a lower establishment of horses and men, but we have not reduced the horses in the Regular batteries. We have placed some of the Regular batteries on a four-gun establishment in time of peace, but that is done by other Powers, and of course when we have only a four-gun establishment we do not use all the horses at one time, but we have the same number of horses available to complete the war strength. At the present time we require a considerable number of men for the divisional ammunition column, that is the column which takes the place of what used to be called the "park," which was an organisation adapted more to the Army Corps than to the division. The more mobile divisional ammunition column which never comes into the firing zone has been substituted for the old park. It is the brigade ammunition column that takes the ammunition brought up by the divisional ammunition column to the battery. It is hoped to get a very large part of these divisional ammunition columns on a militia basis. It is not a question of reducing, because they do not exist at present. All told, using up every man, we could only at the present moment mobilise forty-two batteries for the service of the Regular force out of the seventy-two which we require, and that is one of the reasons why it is that we could not put into the field more than

100,000 men. To mobilise seventy-two batteries, to provide ammunition columns, brigade and divisional, we require 39,000 men. Of these we have available 23,000 on the present Regular establishment. We lack 16,000, and have to get them, and perhaps to get them by converting the Militia Garrison Artillery, and by other methods, and training them for the service of the Regular artillery. That we hope to do by taking the surplus thirty-three batteries, which have got all their valuable reserve of guns, and turning them into training batteries located in different parts of the country. These will serve the double purpose of forming a training school for the drafts and of training the artillery officers and non-commissioned officers of the second line.

Now I come to the deficiencies in transport, for the deficiencies of the Army Service Corps are equally formidable. I believe that they constitute a more formidable part of the difficulty in mobilisation at the present moment than even the Artillery. On the other hand, these deficiencies are more easily supplied on the militia basis. We have worked out the deficiencies under every section of the Army. We find that for the six divisions we require for transport alone in the head Army Service Corps 14,800 men. We have some 12,500 of those, including 9,000 Reservists, a defici of 2,500. We feel that we ought to get not only that deficit, but a considerable proportion of the others from territorially trained men, from the civilian element. Because, after all, what is the work of the kind of men who render services of these kinds? They are bakers, butchers, drivers, smiths, every kind of men who render non-combatant services. We, therefore, feel that there is a considerable prospect of economy ahead by doing what the Continental nations do, that is, going to the man who is practised and trained, and to get from him, for a small retaining fee, an undertaking to come up for mobilisation and practice his trade in the Army Service Corps. The deficiency is 2,300 under the head of transport, and under the head of supply it is 1,100. In the Army Medical Department the deficiency is very serious indeed. We require 8,500 men to look after the wounded in the hospitals. We have 4,700, including 2,000 Reservists, so that the deficit is 3,800. Well, we see our way through negotiations for replacing a large portion of these from civilian sources, where there are those who take a great interest in these matters. I do not forget, either, that on mobilisation we require nurses to go to the hospitals. They are an essential part of the organisation for war. Various schemes are under consideration, and I cannot speak with confidence yet. The whole topic of nurses is one that I approach with diffidence. I find it one of the most difficult that I have had to deal with. The Army Ordnance Corps is a small body which looks after the hardware stores, and of these we have sufficient, and they might be put on a militia basis. The veterinary deficiency is very serious. We require 800 for mobilisation, and we have only 136. Of engineers we require 7,500, and we have with the reserve an actual surplus and a splendid additional reserve, too, in the second line. In officers there is a very serious deficiency indeed. I calculate the deficiency of officers, including wastage, for mobilisation on this footing. We require for six months 10,200. We have 4,500 and 1,500 in the reserve. There is a deficiency of at least 3,800 and probably of over 4,000.

Then there is one other deficiency at the present moment. Besides the field or expeditionary force, we require a striking force. Without general mobilisation, we require a small force to send out at short notice. Thus, last year we were face to face with a crisis on the Egyptian frontier. There were rumours which made us very uneasy, and it might have been necessary to take steps at very short notice. Our difficulty at the present time is that our striking force is rendered very inadequate by the shortage in the number of available Reservists. Therefore the A reserve has been organised; but it consists of only 5,000 men, who are taken in the first year after they have retired from the colours. But not enough have come up to make up the 5,000. We propose, therefore, by a provision in the Bill which I shall introduce, to increase the number of the

A reserve, and also the time in which they may be obtained, so that we may create an element which will enable us to mobilise a striking force of larger dimensions, and capable of more rapid mobilisation. The plans of the General Staff as to the dimensions of that force have not yet been completed. It comes to this, that we have all these *lacunæ* disclosed as the result of the stocktaking which we have initiated.

Now I want to speak of the remedies. In the case of the infantry, we have to supply in the first place the wastage of war. It is true that we have a surplus of infantry, but that is of units which we do not want to break up. Therefore we must have something to supply drafts for the wastage of war. The Militia cannot be used as mere draft-finding units; and therefore we propose to take their substance and organise it. Some organisation for training the drafts is absolutely necessary. In the South African War there was the spectacle of bodies of 2,000 men being trained together by inexperienced officers. What we want is to get an efficient machinery to provide these drafts. The wastage we propose to provide for by certain new cadres which we call into existence. The House must not be alarmed. We propose to create seventy-four new battalions behind the seventy-four pairs of battalions now existing. These battalions will not add an additional man to the establishment, because they are only to train the substance that was in the Militia before. They will be training battalions only. They will have a considerable staff of officers, Regular and Reserve, attached to them. They will each of them train from 500 to 600 men, but they will not train them all at once. We propose to take men and train them until we have upon the list of the battalions, liable to come up on mobilisation and to go abroad, 500 to 600 men, who will serve as a reservoir from which drafts can be obtained for the Regular battalions; and the effect of setting up these third battalions is that the existing depots will be absorbed and merged. There are great advantages over the Militia, in respect of the officers and men who will be trained in these new battalions belonging to the Regular line. In the first place, the men in these battalions will be under engagement to go abroad; and, in the second place, we shall be in a position to supply drafts to make good wastage. In the third place, these battalions will expand and take in the recruits who flow in under any great national stress to make up the number of drafts to supply the wastage of war. In the last place, they will have more Regular officers than has hitherto been the case. They will have as their function to train those special Reservists, those civilians enlisted on a non-Regular basis, who are to take their training very much as the Militia do now. During the past year we have had the advantage of two interesting experiments. One was our own. We have been training twenty battalions of Militia experimentally, and we have found that it has not only been very popular and successful, but we have reached a class of the population where we have done a great deal of good. The other experiment, conducted under the auspices of Colonel Pollock, has shown how much may be effected by six months training. We propose to take these young men at the age of seventeen, and we hope to get from them 12,000 recruits for the line annually, and also the requisite supply to meet the wastage of war of trained men. They will engage to enlist for some six years, and come up for fifteen days in the year. This nucleus or training battalion will thus train non-Regular or special Reservists to supply the drafts for the Regular Army; but they will also, as they have a great supply of officers, form, we hope, the training school in which the officers and non-commissioned officers of the second line will get their training. They will be distributed about the country, and we hope in this way to get a better elementary training for the officers of the second line. The higher training must be done in instructional schools organised by the General Staff and working in conjunction with the commander of the command, but the elementary training we hope to be able to give in these nucleus training battalions. These local training schools will have a locality from which they will not move. They will not be battalions which will ever be as such mobilised into actual fighting battalions, but they will be training battalions from which provisional or rather composite battalions will be drawn on stress of war.

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): They will never go abroad.

*MR. HALDANE: No; so far as they remain merely training battalions, they will never go abroad. [An Hon. MEMBER: Do you pay them?] Oh yes, just like the Militia. They have the training and get the pay. They will form mobilisation centres. The Regulars will recruit there; but, instead of training at the depots, they will, as a rule, we hope, go at once to the second or home battalions. We should like to give up the training of line recruits in the small depots. I think the right hon. Gentleman opposite will agree with me in this, that trying to train in small depots is no use, and we propose to send recruits to the home battalions as far as we can in the future, and to keep these new battalions for the purpose of depots for the training of special Reservists. Their staff will consist, besides the half-pay colonel, who will come up when he is wanted, of a major and four captains. When the recruits come in, in large numbers in time of war, and when these battalions expand, they will remove to the barracks which are rendered vacant by troops going abroad, and these officers will go with them. What we hope is that they will form great double-company battalions—four double companies—each of which will be commanded by a regular captain, and that they will form a training school for finding drafts for war much better than anything we have had up to the present time.

To sum up the effect. The Militia cadre, of which there are generally two staffs at each of the depots, will shed its substance, which will go into these new training battalions, which are to be trained by Regular officers. Militia officers will belong to the reserve of officers attached to the battalions if they so wish, and those who do not so wish will go to the second line and take their cadres there, and, on a county basis, enlist recruits of a different kind, who will now be, I hope, on the footing and trained on the terms I have described. These terms, with their county basis, make the organisation of what is the second line no longer analogous to the old Volunteer organisation, but analogous to the true Militia basis such as existed before Pitt began that process by which they lost their county character. The conversion will, as I have said, be a gradual process, but the machinery I can describe with greater appropriateness on introducing the Bill than it is possible for me to do at the present time. Ireland has got no Volunteers, and therefore for Ireland we have had to make special provision. She has got a splendid Militia, and we propose to make these third battalions just as we have in the other case. We propose to put third battalions behind each of the eight Irish Regular pairs, and we propose that, while that third battalion resembles the training battalion of regiments in Great Britain, there shall be behind it at least one battalion, and probably two battalions, in four or five regiments formed by the existing Militia taking service under the new terms for special Reservists, that is to say, engaging to go abroad and to find drafts—but embodied in their unit and kept as a sort of Militia. Observe how valuable a dozen of these battalions will be to us, and we hope to get them by amalgamating and bringing together the Militia cadres which exist now. We shall be able to send them to relieve Colonial battalions. It may be that these Irish Militia battalions will have to be asked for that purpose. We may think it necessary to take some of them as A Reservists of the new class or we may think that sufficient of them may volunteer to enable us to get the necessary number. Generally the Regular Army will in the training battalions have, we hope, a self-contained infantry organisation and will not depend any more on the Militia, which will have reverted to its county basis and taken a new class of recruits. Looked at in the concrete, I will, by way of illustration, to make it more intelligible to the House, take the county of Norfolk. Norfolk has got a famous regiment of two battalions. At this moment one is at Bloemfontein and the other is at Warley, in Essex.

Under the new system the depot will be at Norwich, but it will be a depot for training only special Reservists. As the recruits come in they go off to Warley to be trained for the home battalion, while Norwich will be training from 120 to 150 men at a time to keep up the reservoir of 500 or 600 men who are on the roll and who will be called up on mobilisation. The six days musketry will be given where convenient in the neighbourhood of the training battalion. The present staff consists of two Militia staffs and four officers, one of whom is a major, and sixty-one non-commissioned officers and men, who form a third staff. For the future the Regular staff will be enlarged, and part of the Militia will have been brought in, some as Reserve officers of the second line, and consequently we shall get one strong staff. The nucleus of the battalion, which, upon war, will remain a training battalion, will go on expanding so as to throw off a large provisional battalion of trained drafts. That seems to us to be a very much more satisfactory organisation than that of the present time. The Reserve officers will, of course, become Regular officers, and as such they will have their function and play their part. I have spoken now of what I call the first of the bridges—the bridge between the first line and the nation—and these bridges are the road by which we wish to bring the Army much more closely to the nation than has hitherto been the case, and if possible to interest the nation more closely in it, and make it feel more closely that it is its own possession.

The next I come to is the artillery. The shortage in artillery at the present time is not due to reduction but is due to the three years system. That system produces the wrong Reservists, and we are beginning to feel the evil of a short time with the colours and a long time in the Reserves. I have had this year to place a sum of £4,000 on the Estimates for the training of the Reservists under the three years system. I have described the ammunition columns, and I have spoken of the thirty-six training batteries which we propose to organise in the shape of twelve training brigades in different parts of the country. These are to be local artillery schools, just as we have got local infantry schools. They will also serve as depots for the purpose of Regular recruits. We have reduced the number of depots for the Regular artillery, but we propose to add these new twelve training schools or brigades, which also will be localised, territorialised, and which will train men on what I may call the special service basis—civilians who give a certain time to military work and who are prepared to take an engagement to come up at once on mobilisation. We propose to train, on that footing, the whole of the artillery which goes with the divisional ammunition columns. We hope in that way not only to be able to get a divisional ammunition column but possibly also to provide part of the brigade ammunition column. At least, we shall be providing a number of people available for the artillery. The establishment of each of these brigade schools will consist of a colonel, three majors, and six other officers, and about 150 non-commissioned officers and men and 125 horses. These training brigades will have a small number of guns, probably two to each battery—at the most four—and it will in that way be able to train as large a number of men as can get an efficient training. In addition, just as the infantry third battalions form an infantry school battalion where officers and non-commissioned officers of the second line are to get some training, so these will be local schools which will train second line officers and non-commissioned officers. On mobilisation they will also train the drafts, and, as each has got the whole of its guns in reserve, the country will have the comfortable feeling that it is not denuded of its artillery, and that there are field guns of the most modern pattern which, I have no doubt, will be admirably used by some of the new Territorial artillery-men whom we propose to train up under the new system which brings the new artillery organisation into the second line.

I now come to the cavalry. The cavalry organisation is one of the most difficult problems which we have. There has been a vast divergence of opinion, some wishing for large depots to train the cavalry, others wishing to train up the cavalry with the regiments. Many believe the best training is the training which is given with the regiment; but be that as it may, what we have to do is much simpler than in the other case; what we have to do is to train these fifteen squadrons of Yeomanry, a troop being furnished by each regiment, who are to form the third section of our cavalry in our new cavalry organisation. For that a certain amount of local training is wanted, and we shall have to organise local cavalry schools on a modest scale. We shall have to organise them so as to give that training. Then there is the Army Service Corps. Just as we have brought across the Yeomanry squadron from the Yeomanry, so we propose to bring from the second line men who have engaged for mobilisation, and who have been paid a moderate sum for doing so. We have negotiated these things, but I do not wish to go into details about it just at this stage. We hope to get an Army Service Corps organisation for the territorial force, and we hope also to supply the deficits of 2,300 in transport and 1,100 in supply, of which I have spoken, in the six divisional organisations. These men will, of course, be supernumerary. We shall be able to bring them up to Aldershot for any extra training that they want, or possibly it may be done locally. This is being worked out under the eye of Sir William Nicholson, the Quartermaster-General, with Sir Edward Ward and General Clayton, both of whom have great experience of Army Service Corps organisation. In the case of the Army medical element there again we have to have our special bridge between the two lines, and the special contingent that we want for the field force is some 331 medical officers, thirty quartermasters, and 4,400 men, which will provide for wastage and give us enough to make up the deficiency which we require for mobilisation of the first line. We propose to organise—and the negotiations for it are in progress—a large territorial Army Medical Corps analogous to the Regular Army Medical Corps. The British Association have already taken a great interest in it, and have suggested that we should organise our corps not merely locally but as a great corps—just as the engineers and the artillery are great corps—organised under the Director-General of Army Medical Corps. We have accepted that suggestion and are going to organise one great Army Medical Corps, and we hope in that way to get a very large number of people connected with the medical profession to take an interest in the Army medical branch of the service, both Regular and second line. In that fashion we hope to get both officers and men who will go out on mobilisation. I may say that we entertain no doubt that we shall be able to succeed to some extent in that, and we think to the full extent of our desires. As regards the engineers, we have got enough engineers for the Regular Forces—we have even a surplus; and it is a great asset to the nation that we should have the magnificent technical corps that we have in the second line and that we do not propose to cut down—on the contrary, we propose to organise that element rather strongly in the second line forces, and thereby have a reserve of strength in case of emergency. I doubt very much whether there is any better class for working in the field, even under fire, than you can get in the highly-educated men who are to be found in some of the corps in various parts of the country. In all these cases these men, so far as we want to supply deficiencies in mobilisation, will get a retaining fee. They will get, of course, a handsome bonus on mobilisation, and they will be paid at Army Service rates while they are out for training; and generally we shall adapt the terms of their service to the requirements of their position. I am getting towards the end of my task. It is almost impossible to shorten it, but I am trying to condense.

Now I want to touch on another subject. To my mind there is no more serious problem to be solved than how to get over the deficiency of officers. We want 4,000 to make up the deficiency for mobilisation for the Regulars, and about 6,000 to make up the deficiencies of the second line—that is, assuming that we should have only those that are already there for the second line. Well, the present Reserve is made up of officers who are middle-aged. Many of them would not be available, although they would be very useful, if the country was denuded of younger officers, in coming up to the training battalions and taking their place in training drafts. We have thought it right to make the most searching investigation we could into this officer problem, and we appointed last autumn what we conceived was a strong committee, and what, I think, has borne out its reputation as a strong committee. Sir Edward Ward, who has great experience in organisation, presided, and we saw that there was only one source from which we could hope to get young men of the upper middle class, who are the usual source from which this element is drawn, and that was the Universities and the big public schools, like Eton and Harrow and other public schools of that character, which at present have large cadet corps. You are not in danger of increasing the spirit of militarism there, because the spirit of militarism already runs fairly high both there and at the Universities. What we propose to do in our necessity is to turn to them, and to ask them to help us by putting their militarism to some good purpose. They are willing to do it, and their willingness will go a considerable way towards helping us to solve the problem. We thought it necessary to put upon that Committee representatives of the Universities and public schools. On that Committee are sitting Professor Hudson Beare, of Edinburgh; Professor Bourne, of Oxford; Colonel Edwards, Fellow of Peterhouse, who represents the University of Cambridge; the Rev. Mr. David, headmaster of Clifton; Lord Lovat, who has taken a great and distinguished part in this matter; Major-General Ewart, Director of Military Operations, formerly Military Secretary, who has great technical knowledge; Brigadier-General Wilson, Commandant of the Staff College; and last, but not least, a representative of the Finance Department, to see that all goes smoothly there. That Committee has made an interim Report, and I am going to take a very unusual course. This question is so intricate, and it is so impossible for me to explain it within compass that, finding the Committee had got to general agreement on certain broad lines, I asked them to make this interim Report in such a fashion that I could lay it on the Table of the House, that Members might study it in detail. I am not bound by that Report. The Army Council has not yet considered it. We approve of the general lines most heartily, but we have got to consider the details. My right hon. friend (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) has not considered it. He has approved of the most general features of the scheme, and he has allowed me to put £50,000 on the Estimates this year to give it a start and make it a reality. But, of course, it will cost a great deal more than that. It may cost in the end £250,000 a year. But I have provided for that by automatic savings which I have been able to make, because this question of the officers is a problem so vital that one would rather cut off some things than leave it unsolved. I have, therefore, made these automatic savings, which will cover the full cost, even if it should amount to £250,000 a year, which is a very outside figure. However, my right hon. friend has not yet considered the details of the scheme, and neither he nor I am bound—nor is the Committee bound. We have been in close consultation with the headmasters and the Universities and other authorities, and we have their approval of the main features of the proposals of the Committee. Accordingly, although the Committee's Report is a detailed Report, it is not the final word, and they have prepared it merely at my request to meet the convenience of the House by giving it something on which Members could form a judgment. It will be on the Table to-night, and hon. Members can take it and consider it. Here are the broad features of it. The Committee studied the systems of France, Germany, Russia, and Japan. France has her own way of obtaining a reserve of officers. They are officers from the non-commissioned ranks—a way which she can use, but a way which is not adapted to our necessities, since we have not the material which France gets through her compulsory system. Germany and Japan, and, to a considerable extent, Russia have all hit upon the same scheme. They take the officer whom they want to train from the

Reserve, and, having satisfied themselves that he is a well-educated man, they attach him, *à la suite*, to a general unit; and there, after a year's training, and on passing a further examination, he goes into the reserve of officers. He is called up from time to time, and on mobilisation he becomes a Regular officer at the foot of the rank to which he belongs, and joins the battalion. We want a reserve of officers for two purposes—one for the Regulars, and one for the second line, and we propose to take the standard, that has been found sufficient on the Continent, of a year's attachment *à la suite* to a Regular unit—whether it is cavalry, artillery, or infantry it comes to the same thing. We propose to do something more. A man may take his year *à la suite*, but if he has done well in the cadet corps, then two years service in the cadet corps permits him to take what we call Diploma A, which lets him off four months of the twelve months which is to be passed *à la suite*. If he goes on from the public school to the University, which in a large proportion of cases he does, and takes a couple of years with the University corps under the lecturers, who in most of the Universities now give some of the military instruction, he can get a second diploma, called Diploma B, which will let him off four months more, so that he will, in order to become a Reserve officer, only take four months *à la suite*. Diploma A. brings him to the level of instruction of a second lieutenant of the Volunteers—not a very high level, but ensuring a certain amount of instruction. Diploma B. carries him up to the standard of a cadet after six months training at Sandhurst or Woolwich. That is the way in which we hope to get a considerable number of men. Well, we propose to form an Officers' Training Corps, which shall be in relation to these cadet corps and University corps, and which will supervise and help them, and see that they train up to a standard requisite to justify us in making the man who has got the diploma have a title to be relieved of a certain amount of service *à la suite*. That is the scheme, and we hope by it to get a very substantial addition to the number of officers which we have got at the present time. The calculations are somewhat complex, and I propose to leave them to Papers which will be laid on the Table of the House this evening. It would take me too long to go into it, but the House will see that the problem will be nearly solved if these officers take their service *à la suite*. These officers when they join the Reserve will probably get an outfit costing about £40; they will also get an initial payment of a retaining fee. Those who are liable to mobilisation will get an annual fee of something like £20. These details have to be worked out between my right hon. friend here (the Chancellor of the Exchequer) and the Army Council.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): For how long will they be engaged?

*MR. HALDANE: They will be engaged from year to year. We think that will be the best plan. To-day officers can send in their papers at any moment, and we think it the best plan, therefore, to follow with the reserve of officers. That is the provisional suggestion of the Committee. The result will be, if our plans are realised, that the Army generally will have two lines. As I say, we are only projecting the doing our best, but we hope that our best will be realised. The Army will have two lines with bridges between, over which the Regular officers will pass for training and commanding the second line. The first line will be mobilised completely to the extent of six divisions and four cavalry brigades. All my calculations are based on the complete mobilisation of the front line, and the result will be that on mobilisation the effective strength will be fifty to eighty per cent. more efficient than at the present time. In the second line, when they mobilise, the strength will be 160,000, a figure in excess of the very sanguine estimate of 100,000, while another estimate is only 70,000, but we should have a struggle to provide that at the present time. The second line would be free from the confusion of infinite separate regulations, separate modes of payment, and separate Acts of Parliament. We propose to pay everyone in the second line on the same footing as the Regulars.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover): Will that apply to the Yeomanry?

*MR. HALDANE: Yes. The right hon. Gentleman says we are destroying the Yeomanry by asking them to take the terms which are given to the Regular Army. I do not agree with him. I think that giving 5s. 6d. in a lump to the Yeomanry was a very doubtful experiment, and I do say this, that if you keep the Yeomanry on that principle of payment, you will ruin the rest of your forces and create a sense of injustice and unfairness. We must make some sacrifice in the interests of the nation. We shall appeal to the patriotism of the Yeomanry and of the officers commanding that force, and I am sure that the right hon. Gentleman would be the first to appeal to them to discharge the part of becoming Regular soldiers of the second line, so that the honour, the rank, and the pay in that line correspond to the honour, the rank, and the pay in the first line. On no other footing can you get an organisation that is worth having. It is just like the case of a field army brigade who had their 5s. a day, which created unrest and dissatisfaction among the whole of the Volunteers. I appeal with confidence to the nation, and I feel sure that the patriotism of the country and the result will show that all men will come forward in this Home line. They will be indemnified against cost, they will be taken care of and looked after in the field, they will be relieved of all expense, and when war comes separation allowances will be given to those who have families, and who are prepared to take their part in serving the interests of the country.

MR. WYNDHAM: How are the horses supplied?

*MR. HALDANE: For our second line we require over 120,000 horses. I hardly thought we should require so many, but I have taken that number and an estimate of £5 a horse, which I think is a very large amount. We wanted, however, to be on the safe side; we have calculated everything very liberally and worked the matter out accordingly. The amount is the same as is given to the Yeomanry at the present time.

What are the general advantages, Sir, which we shall reap? They are, in the first place, the definition of functions. To that we attach the utmost importance. Each army and each line will have its functions in the great national organisation. The second important thing will be readiness for mobilisation. We may reasonably hope to be free from any more South African experiences. The third advantage will be that the second line will be available from the first, and will improve monthly up to the sixth month, and, as we hope, will be a really efficient force, which will render the country quite free from anxiety as to raids. It will be essentially a peace organisation, because it implies the assent of the nation to the calling of this second line into activity, and, as I hold, it will bring home a sense of responsibility and of meaning in all these things to our people, while it will allay uneasiness and leave our minds free for social questions. It will give us an organisation which will have the advantage of being self-contained, each division being self-contained, but capable of being expanded or contracted according to the necessities of the time. If a period comes in which the nations generally agree to reduce armaments and go about it gradually, we shall be able to take off a division from both lines without destroying the organisation as a whole. We shall be able to reduce our force slightly, or we shall be able to expand it under the machinery we have created, should the necessities of the nation make it essential. It may be said that a force so created is analogous to the forces of a province which is threatened with invasion, and which has an army organised on modern lines. The out-posts are on the frontiers always ready, representing our distant corps which to-day are serving across the seas, in the far away places of the Empire which they police. They are the out-post lines. Then our Regular Army, acting in combination with the Navy, constitute what may be called the reserve of our out-posts, not so completely in readiness as those who are beyond the seas, on the frontiers with their rifles in their hands, yet still in a high state of preparation, and ready to start to the assistance of the first line of out-posts. Behind that is the main body of the Army of the King and of the nation in reserve, scattered about in our towns and villages, slumbering, it may be, but prepared on short notice to go to the rescue of those who may be called upon to endure a sudden and severe attack. We see no reason why in this way we should not be able to get something like equality of strength with establishment. One of the scandals of our arrangements hitherto has been the non-correspondence of strength to establishment. It will interest the House if I compare the establishment of to-day with the establishment as it will be should this scheme be worked out. To-day we have 134,000 Regulars serving on the Home establishment, and 122,000 in Reserve. We are slightly short of the establishment in strength, but that is intended to be made up, and therefore I take no account of it. But the Militia, who are 131,000 in establishment, are shockingly short of that establishment. The Yeomanry are very nearly at full strength, 27,000; and the Volunteers are much below establishment, being 338,000 in establishment. The total forms an establishment of 754,000 men at home. Well, the establishment that I am proposing, and which deals, I hope, only with realities—that is what our efforts are being directed to—will be a much smaller establishment, and will be only 621,000 as against 754,000. But we shall be up to strength, and if you take the reality there will not be so much difference between the actual strength of the one and the other, and the average may be very much the same. You take the substance of the Militia and you divert it to your special contingents, to your special service men—for the artillery, for the infantry, for the cavalry, and for other purposes, and that special service contingent will amount to about 80,000 all told. That is against the Militia establishment which is disappearing on the basis of 131,000, so that you really diminish the establishment in that case. Our territorial force has a war establishment of over 300,000, including about 12,000 port defence troops.

Now, Sir, the House will ask about the cost of all these things—what we are going to spend on this new line, on the artillery and all those things with major-generals commanding divisions—on this organisation, which we are endeavouring to make as complete as possible. Here, again, the House must remember that these matters are very apt to be misunderstood. Because they cost a great deal in the present time, it does not necessarily follow that the cost is as much under other systems. The Swiss Army, which has a very effective second line, has about 250,000 men, and about 250,000 in reserve, costs only £1,200,000 a year. But, of course, we cannot do anything like that in this country. Feeling that this matter of the cost should be tested very thoroughly, I asked the Finance Department of the War Office to make a searching investigation into the question, in conjunction with the General Staff and the Committee now sitting under the direction of the Army Council. They are working out the details of the scheme, furnished with all necessary materials. At present our Auxiliary Forces cost us £4,400,000 a year, and they have an establishment of between 300,000 and 400,000. Our second line, if this scheme succeeds, will be 300,000 in number, and will cost, according to the careful calculations of the Finance Department of the War Office, £2,886,000. The whole thing has been taken on the basis of the Army service rates; the salaries from the major-general downwards being the same as they would be in the Regular Army, and it works out at a figure which is extremely small compared with what we are spending on our Axiliary Forces at the present time. I have got to pay for training schools and other matters for which I have not all the details before me now, but I can do so within the margin of one-and-a-half millions. I am well within my figure when I say one-and-a-half millions, and in this, with the £2,886,000, you will have the sum we are spending at present upon the Auxiliary Forces. I think it will be interesting to the House to have these calculations before it, and I have arranged for a Paper containing the whole balance-sheet to be laid upon the Table to-night showing the whole thing upon a war strength. We shall not get the war strength, however, for years, but it is best to put in everything that is required.

I am coming to the end of my statement. As regards our future discussion, what I think would be the simplest plan would be to get you, Mr. Speaker, out of the Chair to-night and continue our discussions on Vote A and Vote 1. Then next Monday I propose to bring in a Bill providing the machinery for putting the Army upon this territorial basis, and on this the whole discussion will be open, and there will be a Paper giving a *précis* of what I have said now. The preliminary discussion can be taken on Wednesday and Thursday, and the Bill next Monday. I propose to print the Bill at once and leave it until after Easter, so that it can be well discussed in the country. Then there will be material for a complete discussion on the Second Reading. I believe that only a young and strong Parliament such as this would be capable of discharging the task which lies before us. It could not be accomplished by an old Parliament, but only by a young Parliament full of vigour and fresh ideas. The Parliament which I am addressing may accomplish the first stage. I feel that if this is to be a reality and a success it requires the work of more than one Parliament and more than one Ministry, for continuity is essential, and that is why I am anxious not by word or suggestion to come into conflict more than is necessary with those who hold different views. We shall have to ask the Auxiliary Forces to take upon themselves considerable hardships, but we feel that they cannot at present become effective. Therefore it is better to help them and make things smoother for them by conceding points which are immaterial and insisting only upon the material principles. The work will take time and the transition must be gradual. The task is gigantic, but one feels that, after all, when the nation is willing, of such a task may be said what is recorded by the prophet Zechariah when the angel appeared and exhorted Zerubbabel, Governor of Judah, "Who art thou, O great mountain, before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain." What we ask for now is not the opinion of the House upon this scheme as a whole, for that the House cannot give without consideration—time and caution are wanted for such a great undertaking. But we ask that the first step should be taken by considering the question of entrusting us with sufficient powers which we can apply gradually under the supervision of Parliament, and report our progress from time to time. The transitory provisions of the Bill make allowances for a comparatively gentle and slow procedure. We shall go slowly; there will be no coercion, but there will be no further recruiting for the old corps on the old basis. All these things will be made plain in the Bill. We are at the beginning of a long undertaking. Our plans are made out in greater detail than I have put before the House, but I think I have shown the kind of machinery we seek to introduce. If Parliament and the country approve of our endeavour, we shall go resolutely forward on the road that we have mapped out, not hastily, but cautiously and considerately. All that we ask now is that a first step should be taken towards placing in our hands the instruments necessary to enable us to make a beginning with this gigantic task, and, if that is granted, we shall proceed to the next stage of our work resolutely and with good heart.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair."

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): I desire to congratulate the right hon. Gentleman upon the lucid manner in which he has explained his scheme to the House. I cannot help feeling that there is now in the situation a certain similarity to the situation several months ago when the right hon. Gentleman spoke upon this question. I think we shall all be prepared to extend the most favourable consideration to the right hon. Gentleman's measures of hope and anticipation. Up to this moment, however, we have not got one step further than the measures of anticipation. This brings me to the only attempt I shall make at criticism of what the Secretary of State for War has said. We are face to face with a certain number of *faits accomplis*, and also with a number of propositions which are to see their accomplishment in the future. The right hon. Gentleman admitted that our future is very uncertain, and that whether his propositions were admirable or the reverse their accomplishment was problematic, because it depends upon a number of factors over which neither he nor anyone else has any control. It would have been infinitely better if, before committing the defences of this country to a number of plausible propositions, he had not proposed to diminish the power of this country for offence or defence. Let me summarise what the right hon. Gentleman has suggested. We are to have a great improvement in the defensive forces of this country, and how is it proposed to obtain it? The sanction of Parliament is asked to the diminution of our Regular Army, which has always hitherto fought our battles, by no less than 13,335 me. But that is not all. Everyone agrees that the most important item to consider is the question of officers, and yet the right hon. Gentleman tells us that no less than 577 commissioned officers and 709 sergeants are to be struck off the effective roll of the Army in the coming year. Is that the way to strengthen the Army for war? It would have been better if the right hon. Gentleman had displayed more patience and caution, and delayed the process of destruction until he was a little further on the road to construction. He told the House that this is a soldiers' plan, and that he has struck a bargain with the soldiers—they giving up so much and he giving up so much in return. I am astonished to hear that in the general military opinion of the country a reduction can be made in the Royal Artillery by 4,000 men, and a reduction of two battalions of the Guards.

*MR. HALDANE: No.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER: I am glad to know that they have not been reduced. I understood that that was an integral part of the right hon. Gentleman's scheme. It does astonish me to know that it is soldiers' opinion that you can reduce the Royal Artillery of this country and provide a substitute for them effectively in auxiliary batteries at all. That may be their view. I did not know that it was. I am interested to hear that it is so. I did not know that it was the military point of view that we should have a large diminution in the number of Regular officers. I did not know that it was the military point of view that the force which now receives a considerable amount of annual training should have that training diminished. And when I find that all the soldiers have got in exchange for these diminutions is the resumption of the plan for completing the school at Sandhurst, and the transfer of the erection of barracks from one place to another, I am inclined to think that they have not got a very good bargain. Here we are face to face with all these great changes and what have we got in their place? In the first place the Militia is to be abolished. [AN HON. MEMBER "No".] They are to be abolished lock, stock and barrel. Let there be no mistake about that. I do not quite understand the right hon. Gentleman's plan with regard to the Yeomanry, but something he said made me infer that they are to go also. I wish to know what he really does propose with regard to the Yeomanry. I think if he is going to make any sort of alteration with regard to the terms of service of the Yeomanry, he may find himself minus the Yeomanry, as well as minus the Militia. We have the line reduced by eight battalions, and we have the Guards reduced one battalion. We have already had three battalions of Artillery destroyed, and we are told that we are to have a much larger reduction of Artillery in the future. The Volunteers have been reduced, and the whole of the fortnight's training has been done away with. What exactly is that force to be in the future? The Army Reserve is practically destroyed. The Army Reserve which is now being formed is not sufficient to mobilise the Army in time of war. That is the real plain upshot of the sketch which the right hon. Gentleman has given us to-night. We are to have the Militia abolished, a reduction of the Line, and a reduction in the Artillery, and what is to take their place? Have we got more men? No. I understand that we are to have many men less. We are to have a smaller force than now. Are we to have any alteration in the expenditure? No, the expenditure is to remain practically the same. What are we to get? We are to get old things called by new names. That may encourage new men to make new enterprises, but I do not for a moment see how you are going very much to strengthen the Auxiliary Forces on which you rely by calling them by another name. There is one matter on which I think we all sympathise with the right hon. Gentleman, and in regard to which, speaking for myself, he will have my support, namely, the effort to make the Volunteer force more efficient. That he will have difficulties in realising his high hopes I am certain, but I do wish him well. That is a totally different thing from taking away that which we had already got. The right hon. Gentlemen said he had been making a sort of inventory of the Army, finding out what was good and what was bad. He spoke of a house in which the footmen were to be discharged. I did not particularly care for the simile. What we are destroying are not the footmen but the Foot Guards. I do not know what is the effective force to be put in their place. The right hon. Gentleman told us that he was going to meet the real crux of the problem in a way which no doubt struck the House as original. It certainly was original. I should like to point out what the real crux of the problem is. I do not concern myself with this territorial Army. I do not suppose that it will turn out as the right hon. Gentleman believes. I think that things incidental to its formation will matter very much. The real crux is that the moment you destroy the Militia you deprive the Regular Army of the source of its recruiting. The right hon. Gentleman says that he has considered that you are going not only to recruit the Army but to form an Army Reserve from a totally new source, or from an old one called by a new name. There is considerable interest in this new proposal. The right hon Gentleman is going to propose the creation of a short service Army —some 90 battalions of a short service Army — men enlisted for six months, to be trained in depots—and confined to service in this country, but to go abroad when required in time of war. That is short service in every sense. It is a short service Army of the very worst kind that can possibly be imagined. How is this invaluable adjunct of the Regular Army to be composed ? Look at what is going to happen. At present 12,000 to 14,000 men pass from the Militia into the Regular Army. The right hon. Gentleman tells us that they are going to take the material now going to the Militia and pass it into the Line, or pass it into the Reserve of the Line. What does that mean ? You are going to get young men at the age of seventeen, but you are not going to get the advantage they now possess. At present they are trained with the battalion, they know the officers, and the prestige is something which they understand. But you are going to induce them, by offering the pay of an ordinary soldier, to go to a depot to be trained for a period of six months. They will never see the officers of the battalion, they will never see the colours of the regiment to which they are attached ; they will be discharged into civil life at the age of seventeen years and six months, and they may be called up for a fortnight every year, or in the succeeding year, for the purpose of training. Is that the kind of men you want for reinforcements in time of war ? Is it the opinion of any officer that he desires to see a battalion which will be composed of 300 of these reduced establishment long service soldiers supplemented by 700 men who have left the Army at seventeen years and six months, who have been in civil life for one, two, three, or four years, who have never served under the colours, and who have never seen their officers ? Are these the men an officer desires to lead ? If he does, he is different from any officer I have ever known. How are you going to get the men ? We are told that this territorial force is going to be so attractive under the command of my noble friend Lord Portsmouth, that all the good elements are to go into it, and that all the undesirable elements which now go into the Militia are to go into the Army Reserve. Why should they do it ? Here they have on the one hand regular pay in the territorial Army with this liability, at any rate, this certainty that under no circumstances will they be required to go on war service abroad, because they are confined to this country, and they have the alternative of going as nondescripts to a battalion which has no corporate existence, and which is a fleeting body ? Who is going to do it ? I will tell you who is going to do it. The right hon. Gentleman spoke of the excellent effect of taking a certain number of men during the winter. He said they were saved from starvation and becoming reformed characters. Well, we are going to rely for forming our fighting Regular Army on men who come at seventeen years of age because their bellies are empty, and they are going to help us in time of war. If we are going to rely on these men, then I say, God help us in time of war. I want to know a little more about the

Reserve. How is it to be formed? I think it conceivable that the Volunteers will accept these proposals. I hope they will. They are in many respects a great improvement on the Volunteer organisation of the present day. They involve a definite period of enlistment for, I think, four years, but they carry with them a penalty which will work out very disagreeably for many men who wish to get rid of that liability during the period of service. But undoubtedly it will give a great deal of stability to the Volunteer force which is eminently needed. There is one question which I hope we shall be told more about, and which is of more importance. You are assuming that in the territorial force you will attract all the men who otherwise would go into the Militia, and you are going to leave as Army Reservists, who are the men who now go into the Militia. What are you going to do with them? Are you going to allow them to go into the Regular Army? If you are going to allow them to serve in the Regular Army, what becomes of the Reserve, and if you do not, what becomes of the Regular Army? You will have a depot somewhere where you will have these men serving for six months. They will have six months hard and very disagreeable drill, and at the end of that time they will do one of two things. They will either go into the Regular Army, or they will go into the Reserve. Are they to be encouraged to go into the Regular Army, or are they to be encouraged to go into the Reserve? My impression is that they will not go into the Army. At the end of six months they will be "fed up" with soldiering, and nothing will induce them to go into the Army, and the result will be that 12,000 recruits will be struck off the recruits of the Regular Army. If they do go into the Regular Army, their service will be required for seven years, and, again I ask, what is to become of the Reserve in time of war?

If the Militia and the Volunteers do accept these new terms, I ask once more, what is the good of it all? What are we going to do with them? Here we are with an Army composed of men whose maximum training will be eight weeks. They may or they may not do a certain number of drills in addition. We hope that in time the officers will have the qualifications which the right hon. Gentleman described; that at some time the Force will be provided with all the arms of a modern army. When that day is going to be, I know not; but this I know: that when the right hon. Gentleman has really seriously provided this great Force with all the adjuncts of a Regular Army prepared to take the field, the cost will not be £2,500,000, but something so enormous that all questions of economy will have vanished and the right hon. Gentleman will have to re-write his Army Estimates. With the training the Volunteer Artillery are to have for eight weeks, armed with inferior guns, will they be an Artillery force worth having? We cannot get an efficient force by a mere change of name. I would ask the right hon. Gentleman, when he speaks again on this point, if he speaks with full military authority? I hear a great deal of what has taken place in other countries. Which country is making this great mistake? There is no country in the world that calls itself a military nation, which believes that it can fight a campaign by means of troops trained as the right hon. Gentleman suggests. Are these countries right, or are they wrong? If they are right, then we are making a most gigantic error. If they are wrong then we have made the greatest discovery of modern times. Reference has been made to the Japanese Army, as if it were an army levied *en masse*; but not a single man in that army is under twenty years of age, and every man has been trained under his own officers for three years, and organised on the most perfect military system known. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for War knows the German Army, and is also, no doubt, as familiar as I am with the French Army; but does the right hon. Gentleman believe that all the trouble taken in training those armies, and all the sacrifices demanded by them, are thrown away? Does he think that if we found ourselves in conflict with such armies, so trained and directed, and could only oppose to them an army depleted of men and guns, and behind it the shadowy unformed force the right hon. Gentleman proposes, we could come out victorious in the struggle in which we were involved? That is a very serious question, which ought to be considered in all its bearings, before we commit ourselves to such a wide proposition. There are other important matters to which I wish briefly to refer. The right hon. Gentleman has once more repeated the strange misconception in regard to the Artillery and the Departmental Services of this country. I know he has not meant to deceive the House of Commons. He is not capable of it. But I know that what he has said now and on previous occasions has deceived the House of Commons and the country. The right hon. Gentleman says that there are great gaps in our organisation for war, and he cites especially the Artillery. I think it would have been fair if the right hon. Gentleman had told the House a little more of the history of those gaps. If he had turned to the Army Returns for the last year in which his Party was responsible for the administration of the Army, he would have found that the auxiliary services as an efficient force did not exist. There was practically no Artillery Reserve; there was no Veterinary Corps; other sections were practically non-existent; and it has been the work of three Conservative Administrations to repair the lapses of the previous Liberal Government. We are told that we cannot mobilise the Artillery, because it is short of Reservists. That is true; we cannot create a Reserve by a shake of a wand. Within the last ten years we have nearly doubled the Royal Artillery, and its Reserve has to grow. I quite agree with the right hon. Gentleman that you may use the auxiliary forces to supplement the Regular forces in time of war; but that cannot be done without having a stronger Regular force. Why not leave the Regular Artillery alone and not destroy it? The right hon. Gentleman, not for the first time, has told us, and that no doubt has commended his proposals to the country, that he would be able to send by his scheme a larger force than now into the field on mobilisation. That is a perfect dream. When I come to examine the constitution of the right hon. Gentleman's force, I find that 50 per cent. of the Indian Army will consist of men who are not soldiers at all. You are not going by that method to get an effective Regular Army of 150,000. You have to depend for such an Army on youths who for a certain pay will be willing to give their services in circumstances which do not exist and on terms which they do not understand. When we are told that no less than 10,000 men are to be taken from one branch of the Militia, and that not one of these is under obligation to serve abroad, it would take years to make them effective even if they volunteered for service abroad. This is an Army of a dream, and of a very distant dream. It is not an Army which will ever be created. I am wholly at one with the right hon. Gentleman in his endeavour to improve the Auxiliary Forces, and I wish him every success. But when all is said and done, there remains in my mind a feeling that one consideration has been left out of the right hon. Gentleman's elaborate survey of the military problem to which he has devoted himself with so much zeal and intelligence. One little word he has forgotten, and that is war. I have heard nothing either now or in other speeches of the right hon. Gentleman in the country, which has made me feel that we are doing more in this matter of Army reform to satisfy the public opinion and enthusiasm of the country than before. We have been told that all that has been done in the last ten years is wrong and that the money spent on the Army has been useless. The history of this country's wars has been long and chequered, but it has been very rich in episodes. Will the right hon. Gentleman tell us that when the occasion has arisen that demanded the services of an Army such as that which he is anxious to create? He would be a bold man who would say that the actual invasion of this country has been unknown in the past and will be unknown in the future. But if history teaches me anything it is that we may be called upon at any moment to enter upon a defence of our Empire, either on the Continent or beyond the seas, and in my opinion a scheme which weakens even a portion of the forces which are at present available for that service is a bad scheme. The regular Army has hitherto undertaken that task and has always performed it. The right hon. Gentleman has only too truly described the degradation of the Militia; but I should have preferred the plan to which he gave his early preference, namely, that of trying to resuscitate the force. He has, however, elected to take another course; he has destroyed the Militia, and he is now going to give us an Army which will be entirely confined to service in this country. He may have sanguine and confident anticipations as to the services that Army will render in war time to an Army in the field, but I think that if he were to ask the lights of the Staffs of the great continental Powers what they thought of a mobilisation which was marked from its earliest stages by uncertainty, which left them in the crisis of war not knowing what numbers they could employ or where they could employ them, and not daring to employ them at all until a particular stage of the war was reached, the members of the Staff consulted would say that the organisation stood self-condemned. There are a good many other subjects with which I might deal, and it is because those other questions have been entirely left out of the exceedingly able speech of the right hon. Gentleman that I have ventured at this early stage of the discussion to deal with that part only of his speech which is vital. If we want to win in war we must make sacrifices. We are cutting our coat, not according to our necessities, but according to the humour of those who might be induced, in one way or another, to assist us.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean) said that before he dealt with the general question he would like to explain an interruption which he made in the course of the right hon. Gentleman's statement, in regard to the Artillery. He complained that the horses for this force had been reduced here and increased in India, and suggested that an economy which had been made on this year's Estimates as a consequence of the reduction of that force was in conflict with the policy pursued by the military authorities in India. The right hon. Gentleman immediately exclaimed that it was nothing to do with him but with the Secretary of State for India. It was not quite fair to throw the responsibility upon the Secretary of State for India, but it was the plan of the War Office to throw upon India the responsibility for expenditure for high efficiency. In the present year, for instance, whilst we were reducing our horses for horse, field, and mountain Artillery from 10,311 to 9,680, we were increasing Indian horses from 10,236 to 13,347. This tendency to throw on India expenditure for attaining high efficiency which we never attained here was unfair, and he had never known it pushed so far as in the Estimates of the present year. We had given up mountain Artillery in this country, contrary to the practice of every other Power, and thrown the whole of our mountain Artillery on India. The reduction in horses had, moreover, been made at a time when omnibus horses ceased to be available.

*MR. HALDANE pointed out that the Army in India was under the control of the Indian Government.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE said he was sorry the right hon. Gentleman should attempt to set up that high constitutional doctrine which he must know was opposed to the facts. The Indian generals were chosen by the Military advisers of this country, and the Secretary of State for India knew nothing of these changes, and nothing about that high efficiency which was aimed at in India, and which was shown by increased cost in India, and nominal economies in this country. It was idle for his right hon. friend to attempt to contend such a thing. [Mr. HALDANE dissented]. This course was taken in defiance of the opinion of the Elgin Commission, the Esher Committee, and of those best qualified to judge, to the effect that our mounted men, and the number of our horses, must be increased. If the officer difficulty could be solved then the real military problem was solved, because we could raise the men under our volunteer system more rapidly, and they could be trained more rapidly, because of their higher intelligence, than those of other countries. But this necessitated our keeping up the more expensive Artillery and Cavalry units, in regard to which the Government were making economies that they were not making in India. His right hon. friend had made a statement to-day even more interesting and valuable than was anticipated by the House. He had changed his opinion since he placed his memorandum before the great Committee, commonly called "The Duma." He had made two speeches in the previous year, and these changes showed a ripening and a mellowing of wisdom which met many of the objections entertained against this scheme at first. But his (Sir Charles Dilke's) support of, or opposition to, this scheme would depend entirely on the extent to which his right hon. friend convinced the House that he had met the difficulty of the transition period. Many of them would support the right hon. Gentleman in making a success of the great scheme which he had outlined; but it was a scheme that would mature very slowly, and take a long time to bring into operation; and it was calculated to paralyse the whole military administration during the transition period. Everything depended upon what was to happen during that transition period. The right hon. Gentleman had commended his scheme to the House by saying that it was a soldier's scheme; but soldiers had never shown their appreciation of the Auxiliary Forces, or their capacity to deal with them. The right hon. Gentleman, to show that he had military opinion behind him, vouched the Army Council; but the late Secretary of State for War vouched the same Army Council for an entirely different proposition; and he had written a book in which he had given chapter and verse for vouching General Lyttelton and General Douglas for opinions quite different from those upon which the right hon. Gentleman relied at the present time. The scheme was, in fact, the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman, and not a soldier's scheme. The right hon. Gentleman destroyed the Militia and recreated it. He recreated so many more battalions under the linked-battalion system. That was to say, whilst we already had seventy-one or seventy-four battalions which were supposed to, but never did, correspond with those we had abroad, there was now to be a third set created under the linked-battalion system, and the same gentlemen who advised the right hon. Gentleman that this system was necessary advised the late Secretary of State in an opposite direction. The Esher Committee assumed the abolition of the linked-battalion system, and the right hon. Gentleman was advised by the Army Council, the first and second members of which were the same as those who advised the late Secretary of State to abolish the linked-battalion system. This same Army Council had recently published a paper written by General Miles, in which that officer laid stress upon the reform of getting rid of the linked-battalion system, and said even now that it would come. The military advice upon which the Secretary of State relied was, therefore, not of much value, and the responsibility must rest upon the right hon. Gentleman. He, and he alone, could win the assent of the House to this scheme. He asked the right hon. Gentleman to win the assent of those who had always gone a long way in the direction of demanding such a scheme. He asked him to do that by showing them that the transition stage would be bridged over. The Secretary of State had said that this was a simple scheme, but that was hardly so, as it doubled the number of systems. For example, the Militiaman enlisted under the old system would serve under that system, and while the new men would be enlisted under the new system the right hon. Gentleman would have to keep the old men under the present system. The only way in which that difficulty could be overcome would be to get rid of all the old men who were not willing to serve under the new system. That was not at all simple. The right hon. Gentleman had said he could get rid of that difficulty by refusing to recruit those units. That was a miserable position into which to put a battalion. There was an example of that at the present time. The right hon. Gentleman had ceased to recruit for submarine miners. There were the Tay, the Forth, the Tyne, the Severn—altogether there were about ten divisions of Volunteer submarine miners which had been reduced. Then there was the well-known case of the Garrison Artillery which was not fully recruited. Those units were left as it were starving, not knowing what the system was to be, and were gradually pining away. It was not pleasant to contemplate in the future that units who refused the new system were to be starved until they pined away through their inability to recruit. He would like the right hon. Gentleman also to tell the House a little more as to what his policy was with regard to raids. In his memorandum on last year's Estimates the right hon. Gentleman described the system by which he would deal with the defence of ports. Everybody agreed that the Tyne was a place that was likely to be raided in time of war, and the right hon. Gentleman said, in adopting the policy of his predecessor, that he had given up the responsibility for submarine mine defence and had handed submarine mining over to the Navy. The right hon. Gentleman said—

> "The future of the Volunteer mining units was at present under consideration."

It had remained under consideration up to the present time. Yet these were those highly scientific units which were so much to our advantage, such as the London electrical engineers, for instance. These battalions were left in a wretched position by this change of policy. Then let the House consider the enormous waste of money in which the country was involved by such a change. First, millions of money were spent in a scheme for defending ports in this way; and then came a proposition to save £100,000 on the Army Estimates and to hand over to the Admiralty all the materials that had been purchased. The minefield material alone cost £1,000,000. It had now gone, and we were still paying for it. That material was probably sold by the Admiralty as old wire. Did it fetch £50,000? He wanted to know if we were better off now than we were then. The right hon. Gentleman further said, in his memorandum, that a joint Naval and Military Committee had been appointed to consider this matter; but there was a joint Naval and Military Committee in working order twelve or thirteen years ago. The whole system of the defence of ports rested on the opinion of the Naval and Military Committee, and he wished to know if the right hon. Gentleman, during the transition period in which this new territorial Army was to be raised, had any conception of how these ports were going to be defended against raids. This was a matter in which he (Sir Charles Dilke) had never taken an alarmist view; but everybody admitted that with regard to the Tyne and the Forth there was a possibility of a raid, and the net result of all these changes, which must be prolonged, was that the Tyne would be left without any system of defence. The right hon. Gentleman had provided no system of defence to take the place of that which had previously existed; and therefore he asked him to try and show those Members who were anxious to support the main details of his scheme how the dangerous transition period, which might last for a great number of years, was to be tided over. He would like to know, for example, how the right hon. Gentleman's arrangements, not only for war abroad, but also for the defence of the Tyne or the Forth, were to be carried out. Perhaps the Secretary of State might be able to throw some light upon what was apparently a reversion of policy upon this subject. They had been told that no money would in future be spent upon anything which was not preparation for war. He would like to ask what was the necessity for such enormous expenditure upon the fortifications of Queenstown, whilst the Tyne and the Forth were left practically undefended? He was afraid that his right hon. friend had had his time so much taken up with the greater subject that his attention had not been drawn to this serious departure from sound principles. He hoped it would be made clear to the House what methods were proposed to close the breach during the very dangerous period which must intervene between now and the time the right hon. Gentleman's scheme would be put into working order.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT (Sheffield, Central) said it was impossible in the few minutes at his disposal before they proceeded to the consideration of another subject to discuss in detail the statement of the Secretary of State for War. The way in which the matter had been dealt with by the right hon. Gentleman was perfectly marvellous, but they would have to seek for much more further information. He would not traverse the great changes proposed in the first line, but those affecting the second line would require the greatest care and attention. He was sorry it was proposed to abolish the Militia, the Yeomanry, and the Volunteers under those names. There was always a danger in abolishing old names and old institutions. Whether the country would take to the old things under a new name he did not know. A great deal would depend upon a variety of circumstances, and if the new name did not take, the disaster would be very great indeed. The right hon. Gentleman had done him the honour of appointing him a member of the Territorial Army Committee; but he regretted to say that they had not been summoned to a meeting since last summer, and therefore it could not be claimed that this scheme was the result of the deliberations of that Committee.

He was very grateful to the right hon. Gentleman for the efforts he had made to inform himself of the opinions of the Auxiliary Forces. He had done his best to encourage them in every possible way, but he thought his proposals with regard to men leaving the Volunteer force were most dangerous.

And, it being a quarter past eight of the clock, and leave having been given to move the Adjournment of the House under Standing Order No. 10, further proceeding was postponed without Question put.

ADJOURNMENT (UNDER STANDING ORDER NO. 10) (JUDGESHIP IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE IN IRELAND).

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.), rose to move the adjournment of the House for the purpose of discussing a definite matter of urgent public importance—namely, "the action of His Majesty's present advisers in making an appointment of a Judgeship in the High Court of Justice in Ireland, which has been vacant for the last three years." He said he had no personal motive in bringing the matter forward, believing that if the appointment had to be made there was no man more entitled to the position than Serjeant Dodd. He had the pleasure of the hon. and learned Gentleman's acquaintance, and, though a political opponent, he wished to take the earliest opportunity of saying that Serjeant Dodd was in every respect admirably suited for the appointment. All he could say was that the hon. and learned Gentleman had received, much too late in his career, the reward now given to him. Serjeant Dodd was the leader of the northern circuit in Ireland and had a large practice. In addition to being a lawyer, he was a man who deserved well of his Party. But he went out into the wilderness in 1886, and had remained there until now, and now that he had got his reward no Member on that side of the House would grudge him for a single moment the enjoyment of it. The hon. Member for South Down at Question time made a personal reference. He (Mr. Moore) had been some years in Parliament; but he was not aware that either in taste or in form the remark of the hon. Member for South Down was in any way in keeping with the spirit of the majority of his colleagues. He was free to admit that he should not for a moment on that account deviate from the course he had marked out for himself, and he assured the House that he had no personal feeling in this matter, as the hon. Member for South Down had been good enough to suggest. His Majesty's Government on this occasion were fortified by a resolution from the Bar Council of Ireland; and he trusted that the Chief Secretary would, as a barrister himself, pay due regard to the wishes of the Council of the Bar of Ireland, who had passed a resolution that day and forwarded it to the right hon. Gentleman expressing unqualified approval of the action of the Government. Speaking as a barrister, he could very well understand that the barristers of Ireland were very glad to have all the judgeships in Ireland filled up, and he was sure none would sympathise with that policy more than the right hon. Gentleman the Attorney-General. He understood, however, that the Chief Secretary, notwithstanding the view of the Bar, was going to ignore the resolution by abolishing two out of the next three vacant judgeships. He wished the House to consider this question on principle. The fact that the appointment concerned a judgeship was not more important to his argument than if it was a Commissionership of Works. There had been a great breach of continuity of policy by successive Irish Governments. Time after time that House—he did not care which Party was in power—had pledged itself to the reduction of this particular judgeship. He wished also to call attention to what he ventured to say was a very remarkable breach of Parliamentary faith, because there was no doubt whatsoever that Resolutions and Bills had passed that House on the assurance of the representative of the Irish Government that this particular judgeship would be abolished. After the lapse of three years to fill it up in a hurry was a great breach of Parliamentary faith. As to representations made by those authorised to make them, he did not think the House would stand a reversal of policy on a matter which had again and again been the subject of pledges. In the third place, he wished to ask what was the effect of the Government's action, from an economical point of view, in making this appointment; and, fourthly, what effect it had on the Labourers (Ireland) Act of last session. When the hon. Member for Waterford spoke on the political platform, one of the first things he took credit to himself for, in connection with the work of last session, was the great assistance given in getting the Labourers Act through the House. [Cheers.] He was very glad to hear those cheers, because he thought that when hon. Members opposite found how His Majesty's Government had run away from what were in fact their statutory pledges in connection with the Labourers Act, those cheers would not be repeated. He wished further to draw attention to the fact that there was absolutely no excuse or demand for this appointment. When one came to examine the present state of affairs in Ireland one saw that it was unnecessary, and that it was a breach of continuity of policy, a breach of faith with the House, a fraud upon the Labourers Act, and a fraud upon the British taxpayer. It was simply the creation of a job for a particular follower, who, for all he knew, had adequate reason to express his discontent with the situation. Hon. Members would remember, particularly those who were in the House when the Land Act of 1903 was passed, that a great additional annual charge was placed upon the British taxpayer—a charge of £300,000 a year. The House would also remember that the countervailing argument of the Chief Secretary was that economies would be effected in Irish administration amounting to £250,000 a year. The economies foreshadowed were to be reductions in the police and reductions in the legal establishment. But the matter did not stop there. Early in 1904 this vacancy, so hurriedly filled up last week, occurred. When the Chancery Judge, who carried with him into his retirement the affection of the whole Irish Bar, resigned, his place was filled up by the transfer of Mr. Justice Barton, a Judge of the King's Bench. There were ten Judges of the King's Bench at that time, and the transfer reduced the number to nine. There were five circuits in Ireland, and the assizes were the poor man's Court for appeals from the county courts, and it was absolutely necessary that there should be two Judges for each circuit. For the last three years the place of the tenth Judge had been filled by a Lord Justice of Appeal, who went circuit with his brother the Chief Justice of the King's Bench Division. But when the Chief Secretary was asked a question by the hon. Member for Waterford, on the 16th March, 1904, he made special reference to this judgeship as a vacancy which was then pending. He would read what the right hon. Gentleman had said, because it was necessary to do so in order to establish the utter breach of continuity of policy of the Irish Government. The hon. Member for Waterford asked about this particular vacancy, and the then Chief Secretary said—

> "There were other savings which could be effected. The other day Mr. Justice Barton was transferred to a vacancy which had occurred on the Chancery side of the High Court of Judicature in Ireland, and it was not the intention of the Irish Government to fill up the vacancy created by that transferance. A saving of £3,500 a year would thus be effected. In the measure which he had mentioned they contemplated reserving the right of saving another £3,500 a year on a vacant judgeship, but regard must be had to the exigencies of the public service."

> "There would be a saving of £7,000 a year, and possibly more, and that, he suggested, should be carried over to the credit side of the Development Grant."

That was a definite statement that under no circumstances was that vacant judgeship to be filled, and there was no doubt whatever that that was the policy of the Irish Government on the faith of which those Estimates went through. A division took place, and therefore it could not be denied that the Estimates were carried on the faith of the statement made by the responsible Minister. That was the view expressed by the Chief Secretary for Ireland in 1904, and he was glad to say that that Minister was as good as his word. A Bill was introduced in that very year to confirm the abolition of that particular judgeship, and also providing for the extinction of the next vacancy. It was true that the Government failed to carry that Bill, but the Chief Secretary adhered to his undertaking, and the Irish Government did not fill up that judgeship. In 1905 the vacancy still existed, and another Bill was introduced for its abolition. This also failed to get through the House of Commons, but still the vacancy was not filled up. Then came a change of Government and the predecessor of the present Chief Secretary took office. Speaking on 28th May, 1906, Mr. Bryce said—

> "In the third place it was proposed to effect certain savings on the judicial establishment

in Ireland, and to apply the sum of £3,500 which belonged to a judgeship now suspended, and to suspend or extinguish another judgeship, which would save another £3,500, and to reduce the salary of the Lord Chancellor of Ireland from £8,000 to £6,000. These three savings would give him a further sum of £9,000 a year."

If there was to be any continuity of policy in the same department, the House could not have a clearer case brought before it than this, where, irrespective of Party, Chief Secretary after Chief Secretary had declared that this particular judgeship should be abolished, and that the saving effected thereby should go to Irish purposes. Under those circumstances he thought it was only right, when suddenly and practically without any notice this judgeship was filled up, that the House of Commons should have an opportunity of considering how far it would allow this continuity of policy to be interrupted. But the matter did not stop there. There had also been a gross breach of faith. The estimate for the Judges passed through the House of Commons on a division on the faith of the statements that this particular judgeship was not going to be filled up. When Mr. Bryce made that statement he was trying to obtain his Labourers Bill, and one of his difficulties was where to find the money. The Consolidated Fund was to be tapped, and in various other ways the money was to be raised, and he promised to contribute £9,000 by savings from judgeships, including this identical judgeship. Mr. Bryce got the Second Reading of the Labourers Bill on those representations. Consequently he was justified in saying that there had been a gross breach of faith in this matter when they found the Government suddenly turning round and filling up that vacant judgeship. He very much sympathised with the Chief Secretary in the fact that one of the first things he was called upon to defend was a gross and glaring breach of Parliamentary faith on the part of his predecessor. [NATIONALIST laughter and cries of "Oh, oh!"] He might remind hon. Members below the Gangway that charges of breach of faith could not be laughed away, nor could statements on the faith of which legislation had been obtained. Before this appointment was made it was only right and proper that the right hon. Gentleman should have come down to the House of Commons and told them fairly and squarely that a real demand existed for it, and that notwithstanding former statements and pledges he proposed to ask the sanction of the House for this appointment. But that was not the course adopted by the Chief Secretary; and, even assuming that the right hon. Gentleman was not to blame, at any rate his predecessor had left him in an unfortunate and invidious position. He wished to point out also how unjust this action was to the general British taxpayer.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): What about twenty-nine and a half years' purchase?

MR. MOORE thought the House ought seriously to consider on whom the expense of this appointment would ultimately fall. What was the position? At the present time there were four retired Judges under the head of the Irish Judiciary drawing pensions amounting to over £12,000 a year. The late Lord Chancellor, Lord Ashbourne, was drawing £4,000 a year. [NATIONALIST cheers.] He was glad to hear hon. Members cheer that. Then there was the late Master of the Rolls, Sir Andrew Porter, and the Vice-Chancellor of Ireland, whose total pensions amounted to £12,000 a year. Surely if there was any desire on the part of a Government that had talked so loudly about retrenchment and economy on all occasions, in season and out of season, to practise what they preached, they would not have saddled the British taxpayer with an additional £3,500 a year at a time when they were paying £12,000 in pensions to Irish judges. What they had done in Ireland to-day they might do in any part of the Kingdom to-morrow if their action was not checked. Their action was a striking contrast to the professions of rigid economy and parsimony in expenditure which found so much favour with hon. Gentlemen opposite. He thought the Government might at least have waited until this £12,000 had to some extent been diminished. The Chief Secretary had told the House to-day that six or eight additional examiners in title had been appointed under the Land Purchase Acts. Nobody grudged those appointments because they all agreed—or at least those of them who were sincerely and honestly anxious to have an end put to the Irish difficulties connected with the land—with such appointments. They all agreed that the more they accelerated land purchase the better, and this could not be done except by providing a proper staff and the necessary funds. Rightly or wrongly, these gentlemen were appointed to take so much work off the shoulders of the Land Commission Judge. He was satisfied that, at the moment those appointments were made, the Treasury knew by statements which had been made in the House by successive members of the Irish Government that it was not the intention of the Government to increase the expense of the Judiciary by filling up this judgeship which had then been vacant for eighteen months. Then there was the effect of withdrawing this grant from the purposes of the Labourers Act. The finance of that Act was to be provided in part from the annual income of the judgeship which was then treated as extinct. On the very day that the Labourers Bill was introduced the then Chief Secretary for Ireland, the predecessor of the present holder of that office, introduced a Bill to abolish this actual judgeship. The £3,500 a year which Mr. Bryce said would be applicable to the purposes of the Labourers Act had gone to a loyal, capable, and competent supporter of the Government. It had been taken from the labourers, and what a nice election cry it would make in the constituency which Sergeant Dodd formerly represented. That was Liberal retrenchment, economy, and reform. [Laughter.] Hon. Members laughed, but this £3,500 a year meant £100,000, for it was a perpetual judgeship. Though the Bill with respect to the abolition of the judgeship did not pass, the intention not to fill the vacancy was persisted in in the following year and again by Mr. Bryce last year. Irrespective of Party, therefore, it was a continuous policy until suddenly the present Chief Secretary was placed in an unfortunate and invidious position by a flagrant breach of Parliamentary faith on the part of his predecessor. The Government had taken away what would have provided £100,000 for the purposes of the Labourers Act to reward a most capable and competent gentleman who had served them for twenty years.

*MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I must deprecate these constant references to rewarding a capable and competent gentleman for political services. It introduces a personal element which is very undesirable, and furthermore, it has nothing to do with the form of the Motion which is now before the House.

MR. MOORE said it was seldom that he had to be called to order. He would do his best to obey the ruling, and he trusted he would not be found transgressing again. In reply to a Question which he put on the Notice Paper, the Chief Secretary had informed him that Mr. Justice Dodd was appointed to hear and determine Land Commission appeals, and that there were some 7,000 of these appeals pending. These, of course, were appeals from the fixing of fair rents. As a matter of fact, the bulk of these appeals were over. Rents were first fixed in 1881, and there was a great rush to the Land Courts until 1885. These were the yearly tenancies. After that there was a diminution of appeals until the House passed the Act enabling leaseholders to come in, and then there was a rush of leaseholders until 1900. The leaseholders second term of fifteen years expired in 1904, and the bulk of the notices of the leaseholders' appeals—which was practically all that was left for the Land Commission to decide now—had been served. The number of 7,000 would certainly never be increased, and Mr. Bryce had told them that they would be disposed of more quickly in the future. There was less chance of appeals owing to the extension of land purchase, and of the 7,000 now pending not more than 5,000 in all probability would ever go on. The principle which appeared to be actuating the Government was that the smaller the business the more men were wanted to do it. He moved the adjournment of the House to call attention to this matter as a matter of principle. Unless there was in this House a watchful Opposition ready to expose actions of this sort, which certainly were open to criticism, they would never know what else might happen, or to what other departments in Ireland—for it seemed safe in Ireland for the Government to experiment as it pleased—this principle might be extended.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH (Maidstone) said that although he represented an English constituency, he thought he could claim to have the right to second the Motion of the hon. and learned Member, and to speak on behalf of Ireland. He would like to join with the mover of the Motion in saying that he approached the subject in no hostile spirit to Sergeant Dodd, to whom this judgeship had been given, for he recognised that from a public point of view there was no man more qualified to occupy that position. He would like to draw attention to the principle underlying this question, a principle which reflected on the honour and integrity of the House. This was a matter of such great importance that he thought the House would agree that they should receive some very definite and conclusive statement from His Majesty's Government on the subject. It must be admitted that they on that side of the House, and also the country, had been taught to attach very little importance to what they might call Government speeches and Government undertakings. ["Oh, oh."] The Government was the Government of the British Empire, and a speech or undertaking given on the responsibility of that Government should be carried out regardless of all Party motives. He had no desire, and he did not think that was a fitting opportunity, to traverse old ground, and he thought perhaps he might come within the range of the Speaker's ruling if he ventured to speak in detail of the measure in which the Government had not carried out their pledges; but he thought, in support of his contention, he might perhaps refer to the Chinese Labour question.

THE DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The hon. Member surely knows that this has nothing whatever to do with the question at issue.

VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH said he ventured to put it forward in support of his argument that various pledges and undertakings given by the Government had not been carried out, and he would like to ask the Government if such an undertaking as had been given more than once in this matter was to be deliberately set aside. If so, it was difficult to realise why the Government should go out of their way to give an undertaking. It was difficult for those who, like himself, were connected with the North of Ireland to elicit the sympathies of Nationalist Members, but he felt sure that they were at one on this question, because in this particular case funds had been diverted which otherwise would have been utilised for the benefit of the people of Ireland, and he would hope to receive the assistance of the hon. Members to whom he referred in the division lobby later on. It could not be said that there was any doubt about the words of the late Chief Secretary for Ireland, and he had no doubt that had Mr. Bryce been in the same post now he would have loyally carried out those utterances. The present Chief Secretary had told them, in one or two very humorous speeches, that he was new to the Irish Office, and he ventured to say that the right hon. Gentleman did not quite realise that in parting from the serene atmosphere of the Education Department he had fallen into what might be termed a controversial vortex in placing himself at the head of Irish politics. The Government might endeavour to explain the matter away, and it might be their purpose to show that they had taken upon themselves the fulfilment of a private undertaking. He thought, however, that if there was a public pledge given in this House and an undertaking from a private individual, the public pledge should most certainly have priority. It might be that their plans had miscarried, and that unforeseen circumstances had arisen, or rather that foreseen circumstances had not arisen; and in that case they would be on the horns of a dilemma. But when a statement was made by one of His Majesty's Ministers, it was a statement for which the whole of the Government was responsible, and it was certainly with anxiety that he looked forward to the speech of the Chief Secretary as to the motives which had induced him to depart from the undertaking of his predecessor. It might be the desire of the right hon. Gentleman, if he might use the expression, to reward the Irish Party, and he certainly thought they were deserving of a great deal of reward at his hands. Nationalist Members were prepared, he was going to say, to make almost any sacrifice to obtain the support of the Government, and that perhaps would be seen as the session advanced. But the fact remained that the original pledge given by the late Chief Secretary had been deliberately broken, and he did not think that the words which he used in giving that pledge could come under the heading of a terminological inexactitude. The question of economy must be considered, and it was obvious to all that the elimination of redundant judgeships must be a question of economy. Economy was another cry by which the Government obtained the power which they now held, but he could not see that up to the present they had shown any very economical spirit. He would like to repeat what had been argued by the mover of the Motion, namely, that an emolument of £3,500 a year had been placed at the disposal of a Judge, whereas it ought to have been used in facilitating the operation of the Labourers (Ireland) Act. He did not wish to be led into discussing the discrepancies between Liberal words and Liberal actions, but he would ask if they were to take every utterance of His Majesty's Government *cum grano salis*, or on the other hand, were they to believe that every utterance of His Majesty's Government meant diametrically the opposite? He thought it would not be out of place to use the now historic words of the Prime Minister, "Enough of this foolery," for he thought the action of the Government could come under no other designation when they said one thing and immediately did another. They had seen nothing but inconsistency from the beginning of the session up to the present moment. He had no idea what line the Government would take on this question, and he could only say that their action had most decidedly belied their words. He had great pleasure in seconding the Motion.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That this House do now adjourn."—(*Mr. Moore.*)

*MR. J. MACVEAGH (Down, S.) said he rose to give his moral support to the Motion for the adjournment; but for reasons which he would subsequently indicate, he regretted that he would be reluctantly compelled to transfer his material support to the other lobby. His reasons for supporting this Motion were, however, very different from those assigned by the hon. and learned Member for North Armagh, but the difference between them was more apparent than real; for both of them were agreed that the Government was guilty of culpable negligence in passing over the claims of another member of the Irish Bar whom modesty forbade the hon. and learned Member for North Armagh to name. The hon. and learned Member had referred to a resolution passed that day by the Council of the Irish Bar, composed almost wholly of Tories and place-hunters; but he could quite understand why the hon. and learned Member did not quote the whole of the resolution, which, not only expressed unqualified approval of Serjeant Dodd's appointment to the Bench, but unqualified disapproval of the conduct of the hon. and learned Member who had brought forward this Motion. He had listened with interest to the eloquent praise bestowed by the hon. and learned Member for North Armagh on the Judicature Bill for Ireland proposed in this House. He hoped no one would rise to point out that when that Bill was proposed it was blocked by the hon. and learned Gentleman. There was really nothing in that point unless one wanted to establish the principle that an Ulster Unionist should be consistent, and from any such deplorable result as that, might the good Lord deliver them. The great fault in judicial appointments in Ireland was, that they were made not from considerations of legal attainments, but from considerations of political services, and the hon. and learned Member and he would have been delighted if the Government upon this occasion had departed from the evil course followed by the Tory Government during the last ten years, and had appointed a political opponent. And who, amongst political opponents, had claims equal to a certain Member who should be nameless? The Liberal Party should not forget the distinguished services which this Gentleman had rendered, but on this occasion he thought that they had shown base ingratitude and that the hon. Gentleman might say—

> "Blow, blow thou winter wind,
> Thou art not so unkind
> As man's ingratitude."

Hon. Members might not be aware that this candidate in whom he was interested had any claims whatever upon the Liberal Party. But who was it who unearthed Sir Antony MacDonnell when he was lurking in the cellars of Dublin

Castle; who turned the lantern upon the dark chamber and dragged him out into the light of day? Who was it who made the pace so hot for that arch-conspirator, the Member for Dover, that the right hon. Gentleman had to execute a strategic move to the rear at the bidding of his late private secretary?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think the hon. Member is getting away from the point.

*MR. J. MACVEAGH said he would be sorry to get away from the point, and he certainly hoped that there was no truth in the suggestion that the Government had not made the appointment which he suggested because they hoped he would still press for the production of the MacDonnell letters. He had in his mind a Member who would be a much better occupant of the Bench than Serjeant Dodd. He was the one who broke up the solid phalanx of the Ulster Members and smashed it into the shattered fragments which they had before them. He submitted that a service of that kind constituted an undoubted claim upon the Liberal Party. He was afraid, however, that it was too late now to remedy the mischief that had been done. He appreciated the services of Serjeant Dodd and how unselfish he was, and perhaps he was wrong in saying that it was too late to repair the damage which had caused this great constitutional crisis. Perhaps if the Government appealed to Serjeant Dodd he would give up the loaves and fishes, and then the Government could appoint the hon. Member he wished. At all events if they applied to Serjeant Dodd he was sure he would send a reply. But if that failed, might he appeal to the Chief Secretary to use his influence with the Lord Chancellor in another direction. There was a vacancy in the Court of Appeal, and he would suggest that his friend should be sent up to keep company with Lord Atkinson. He had done his duty in urging the claims of the Member for North Armagh, but if the Government turned a deaf ear to his warning, if they dared to refuse a job to every Ulster Unionist who desired it, on the Government's own head would be the consequences.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) said it was really a very edifying and refreshing spectacle to some of them to see hon. Members of the Ulster Tory Party posturing in this House as the advocates of economy. The noble Viscount who seconded the Motion certainly had an ancestral claim to insist upon purity in national administration. He thought before they preached virtue they ought to practice it. It was quite true that a Bill was introduced in 1904 by the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Dover to abolish this judgeship, but from the Order Paper of 28th July of that year it appeared that Motions to read it that day three months or six months appeared in the names of Mr. Charles Craig, Colonel Saunderson, Mr. Thomas Corbett, Mr. Sloan and Mr. Lonsdale. So that hon. Members of the Party above the gangway who blocked the Judicature and Development Grant Bill when it was introduced by the late Government now had the audacity to get up and censure the present Government for not carrying out that which they opposed when their own Government was in power.

MR. MOORE said his statement was that the late Government refused to make this appointment.

MR. DILLON asked what was the position with which they had to deal? Fair rent appeals had accumulated to an enormous extent, and everybody was of opinion that something should be done to remove the block, which was inflicting great injustice upon the poor tenantry in Ireland. In many cases tenants had had their rents fixed, but the appeals had been pending for six years. What was the hon. Gentleman's remedy? He asked whether Judge Ross had not offered to go and hear these appeals. He (Mr. Dillon) did not know what Judge Ross had offered, but he knew what all Ireland would have done if Judge Ross had been sent to do this work. He did not know anything which would have raised such a tempest of indignation. This Government, at all events, would not, he hoped, dream of taking that course. The fact was that great pressure had been brought upon the Government for the last two years to do something to facilitate the hearing of these appeals.

To get over the difficulty the Government had appointed Judge Dodd for the purpose of hearing these appeals. The hon. Member for North Armagh, before he got to the end of his speech, had forgotten the beginning, because, in the first instance, he said that this would mean a loss to the Irish people of £3,500 a year, but at the end said the loss would be inflicted upon the British taxpayer. If he (Mr. Dillon) thought it would inflict a further charge of £3,500 upon Ireland he might hesitate, although he would not grudge that sum in order to relieve these poor tenants. He had not, however, such a conscience with regard to British taxpayers, as he thought that they owed Ireland something. The whole of this movement was a dishonest farce, because it was an attempt to turn the House of Commons into an election platform, but, as the hon. Gentleman must know, the people of Ireland were far too intelligent to be humbugged in that way.

THE CHIEF SECRETARY FOR IRELAND (Mr. BIRRELL, Bristol, N.) said he was very much indebted to the mover and seconder and other hon. Members for showing that nobody had any strong objection to their old friend Serjeant Dodd. Everybody agreed, and nobody more so than the hon. Member for North Armagh, that his services had long been overlooked, while his great abilities and high character were acknowledged. He wondered under these circumstances why his right hon. friend the Member for South Dublin had overlooked him for so long. He was glad that if this was to be taken as a job it was one with so happy a purpose. There had been many jobs in Ireland, some on a great and some on a small scale. Some were jobs involving the appointment of a Judge, while one involved the sale of a nation, which had led to consequences far more serious than this case. He was happy to see that everybody acknowledged that the new Judge was well qualified for his post and would adorn the Bench. The whole urgency of this matter rested upon the necessity of getting rid of these arrears in fair rent appeals. In this matter he would describe himself as a middle-aged man in a hurry to settle the land war in Ireland by working the Land Purchase Act at what might be described as the high water mark of Treasury complaisance. He wondered how long such terms would be continued, but so far the Act had worked successfully. Applications had been made for large sums of money, but, because of judicial delay, 7,000 fair rent appeals were pending in the Court, and unless these appeals could be settled, and settled quickly, the tenantry of Ireland would be wearied to the last degree with the delay. The tenant was not educated enough to understand the subtleties of his (Mr. Birrell's) own profession, and what he wanted was that his application to become a purchaser on reasonable terms should be dealt with. Everyone agreed that some speed had taken place in past years, but notwithstanding, they could not, and ought not, to be content to brook a moment of delay that could be prevented in bringing the Land Purchase Act into full working, as well as to provide, if necessary, legislation to put the evicted tenants on their holdings. This pressed most to his mind at the present time, when every action possible on the part of the Government to bring about these two results was imperatively necessary. He agreed that if the Bill introduced by the right hon. Member for Dover or the Bill introduced by his predecessor last session had passed into law—and hon. Gentlemen opposite took good care it should not—the step of which complaint was made could not have been taken, and the Government would have had to find some other means of accelerating the hearing of these cases. But as neither of those Bills became law, it was open to the Government, having regard to the present state of business, to do all they could to get rid of these arrears. In a matter of this kind they attached importance to the opinion of the head of the Irish Judicature. The Lord Chancellor wrote to him that at the present rate of progress it would take two years or more to dispose of the appeals pending. It appeared that every year a considerable number—2,000 or 3,000 at least—came upon the paper for settlement, but they were always followed by new cases, and it was essential that the Judges should be able to deal with them as they arose. The Chief Commissioner, who was taking an active part in the distribution of money under the Land Purchase Act, had more than sufficient to occupy his whole time.

He had been obliged to postpone the distribution of over £100,000. The Examiners of Title—twenty-four in number—gave all their time, and new rules were being made to accelerate the work. There was about £1,500,000 of purchase money awaiting distribution by the Judicial Commission, and £184,000 awaiting distribution by the Chancery Division. It was with the object of disposing of this congestion that Sergeant Dodd had been appointed. This had been called a job, but he did not care what it was called, so long as the work was done. The suggestion was that the Government should wait for dead men's shoes, until those happy, comfortable, well-paid pensioners—and he did not wish to disturb them—had dropped off, before they secured their object. But the Government could not afford to wait, and were determined not to wait, and therefore they had availed themselves of this opportunity of meeting a pressing emergency by appointing a gentleman well qualified to discharge these duties. He was surprised that the appointment was objected to. So far as the labourers were concerned, their case would not suffer in any way by this appointment. The Government would proceed with the measure they had in contemplation, which would reduce the Lord Chancellors' salary from £8,000 to £6,000 a year, and provide that two of the next three vacant judgeships would not be filled up. Therefore the most that could be alleged against the Government was that the operation of economy in this matter had been suspended in the face of a great public emergency. It was said that this particular judgeship would be for ever. It was nothing of the kind. It would not be permanent. That might not be popular with the Irish Bar. He thought that the statement he had read to the House from the Lord Chancellor—an opinion supported by the impartial vote, not of frenzied partisans in that House, but of the Judges of the Four Courts, Dublin—justified the Government in making this appointment in the interests of the public. The Government believed that this was a necessary appointment in order to carry out necessary work, and they were not satisfied to allow these arrears to go on year after year. They wanted to see them disposed of as rapidly as possible, and therefore they had taken this step, but it in no way involved more than a delay in their policy of reform, and he hoped when they introduced their Bill the hon. and learned Gentleman and his friends would see the error of their ways and would amend their habits, and become for the first time in their lives active and zealous economists.

MR. WALTER LONG (Dublin, S.) said the right hon. Gentleman in his speech had founded his case on the desire that the work of his Department should be done, but they had heard the real explanation from the hon. Member for East Mayo, who had animadverted upon the newly-developed desire of Ulster Members for economy. The right hon. Gentleman had asked why he (Mr. Long) had not, whilst he was Chief Secretary, recognised the claims of Mr. Justice Dodd, as he now was; but during the time that he was Chief Secretary no vacancy occurred on the Irish Bench. He regarded himself, however, as bound by the condition which had been laid down by his predecessor that, unless some exceptional circumstances could be shown, there was to be no change in his policy. The right hon. Gentleman had found quite suddenly that all the views of his predecessors were unfounded, but the remarkable thing was that there had been 2,000 cases cleared off since the last statement was made in the House, and they had every reason to believe that they were now proceeding with increased rapidity. When he himself was Chief Secretary, though it might have been necessary to make some small re-arrangements among the existing Judges, there was no need whatever for the appointment of a fresh one. It was suggested that some of the work might be transferred to a learned Member of the Bench to whom he would not refer, but the hon. Member for East Mayo had answered that point, because he had stated that he and his Party would have resisted and resented any such transfer or re-arrangement; in other words, that the only thing to which they, the masters of the Treasury bench, would assent was an appointment of which they approved, and which led them to believe that the work of the Bench would be justly performed. They knew from hon. Gentlemen below the gangway from long experience what was their idea of justice in the performance of this kind of work, and it did not encourage them in viewing the future when the real reason for this appointment was given with so much candour by representatives of the Nationalist Party. The right hon. Gentleman had referred to the line taken by his predecessor in office, Mr. Bryce. His hon. and learned friend had also referred to the introduction of the Labourers Act. He was not a Member of the House unfortunately last session, and he did not realise how much stress was laid on the circumstances which justified the then Chief Secretary in appealing to the House, which he did on more than one occasion, to take the Bill as a non-controversial measure agreed upon on all sides. The right hon. Gentleman in answer to the hon. Member for East Mayo, had told them that it was perfectly true that this money would be subtracted from the money available for the Irish Labourers Act, but that he and the Government would take care that they did not suffer and that the money would be made good. The hon. Member for East Mayo was quite right; they could not have it both ways. The money under the Labourers Act was voted by Parliament as part of the financial arrangements of that Act, and it was subtracted from by the appointment of this Judge. The money would have to be found somewhere, and the hon. Member for East Mayo could afford to look with complacency upon a proposal which would lay an additional charge upon the British taxpayer. He was astonished when he heard that this appointment had been made, without the smallest intimation to the House of the intention to depart from the arrangement made, and without the smallest evidence to show that there had been any material alteration in the conditions which existed at the time the right hon. Gentleman's predecessor made it, which made it necessary to appoint the new Judge, for all time, as his hon. and learned friend had said. The Chief Secretary had taken objection to that statement. Did the right hon. Gentleman think that these appeals would last more than two years? Did he believe that he would be more fortunate than his predecessors, and did he think that he would have at his disposal the necessary vacancies on the Bench which would enable him to provide fresh work for this new Judge, and at the same time keep the promises which had been made? The right hon. Gentleman was the great Minister who was supposed to keep his promises, as if—he would be excused for saying so—he was the one Minister who desired to do so. At all events the right hon. Gentleman justified his action as compared with that of his predecessors, and had adopted a line which he could not maintain. He thought his hon. and learned friend was abundantly justified in the Motion he had made, and he could safely say that if the Unionists had been in office, and had thought it necessary to make this departure from the Parliamentary bargain which had been entered into, without notice or indication of their intention, without the production of any evidence to show that special circumstances had arisen to justify their action, they would have had a debate far more excited than the present one had been, and a condemnation expressed by hon. Gentlemen below the gangway far more severe and personal than anything that had been said that evening. If they found the change which had been made behind him unsatisfactory, he could only say that that change was infinitesimal compared with the change in hon. Gentlemen below the Gangway, who were to-day prepared to regard as virtuous the appointment of a new Judge, which, in the time of the late Government, they would have regarded as altogether vicious and unsatisfactory.

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The House divided:—Ayes, 250; Noes, 57. (Division List No. 19.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Asquith, Rt. Hon Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barrow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.

Beck, A. Cecil
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J. H (Essex, Romf'rd
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh
Brunner, Rt. Hn. Sir J. T. (Chesh,
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett, C. H. (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.

Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth, R. L. (Caithn'ss-sh
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor. (Mon, S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St. Pancras, E.
Leese, Sir Joseph F. (Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk Bg'hs
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas

Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Philipps, Col. Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richards, T. E (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley (Southampton
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)

White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balfour, Rt Hn. A. J. (CityLond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fletcher, J. S.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hervey, F. W. F (BuryS. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S.
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Powell, Sir Francis Sharp
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant, James Farquharson
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Watt, H. Anderson
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Lord Balcarres

Question put accordingly, "That this House do now adjourn."

The House divided:—Ayes, 63; Noes, 264. (Division List No. 20.)

AYES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles. G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W,
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Charles Curtis (Antrim, S.
Craig, Capt. James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fletcher, J. S.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hervey, F. W. F. (BuryS. Edm'ds
Hill, Sir Clement (Shrewsbury)
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Lambton, Hon. Frederick Wm.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Long, Rt. Hn. Walter (Dublin, S
Lonsdale, John Brownlee
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mildmay, Francis Bingham
Moore, William
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Remnant James Farquharson
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Sloan, Thomas Henry
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford East)
Smith, F. E. (Liverpool, Walton.
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh)
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wyndham, Rt. Hon. George
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Lord Balcarres.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herbert Henry
Atherley-Jones, L.
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Baring, Godfrey (Isle of Wight)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Bertram, Julius
Bethell, Sir J H. (Essex, Romford
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boland, John

Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brodie, H. C.
Brunner, J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,RtHnSirJ.T.(Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Coats, SirT.Glen(Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunne, MajorEMartin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Gardner,Col.Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt.Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Guest, Hon. Ivor Churchill
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon.Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J.Keir(MerthyrTydvil)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harmsworth,R.L.(Caithn'ss-sh
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)

Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jackson, R. S.
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Jowett, F. W.
Joyce, Michael
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Enmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lea, Hugh Cecil (St.Pancras,E.
Leese, SirJosephF.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(FalkirkB'ghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh,Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Iver, SirLewis(EdinburghW.
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu. E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Mooney, J. J.
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph

Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly,James (Roscommon,N
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Philipps,Col.Ivor (S'thampton)
Philipps, Owen C.,(Pembroke)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh,Central)
Radford, G. H.
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Rees, J. D.
Renton, Major Leslie
Richards,Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Richards, T.F.(Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Runciman, Walter
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Silcock, Thomas Ball
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanley, Hn.A. Lyulph(Chesh.)
Steadman, W. C.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Stewart-Smith, D. (Kendal)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Tennant,Sir Edward(Salisbury
Thomas, SirA. (Glamorgan), E.
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walton, SirJohn L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Ward, W.Dudley(Southampton
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney

Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Luke (York, E.R.)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Whittaker, Sir Thomas Palmer
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn(Carm'rth'n
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Wodehouse, Lord
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES —Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

SUPPLY (ARMY ESTIMATES).

Postponed Proceeding on Question, "That Mr. Speaker do now leave the Chair," resumed.

Question again proposed.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT, continuing his speech, said he wished to call the attention of the Secretary of State for War and the House to the very serious character of some of the changes which were proposed in regard to the Volunteer force and especially as to the engagement for four years. Men were to be prevented leaving except on three months notice, or the payment of £5. As about 80 per cent. of the Volunteers consisted of artisans who had to change their place of habitation sometimes at a few days' notice, it was a serious matter for them to be called upon to pay the heavy fine proposed in order to be released from their obligations. His fear was that such a condition would have a serious effect upon the recruiting of the Volunteer force. He had had an opportunity of hastily glancing at the Memorandum epitomising the speech of the right hon. Gentleman and giving a general view of the financial arrangements which were proposed. He could not say from a perusal of the document that he was enamoured of the scheme in regard to the Auxiliary forces propounded by the right hon. Gentleman. The right hon. Gentleman deserved the utmost credit for the manner in which he had made himself acquainted with all the difficult problems involved, and brought forward a considered scheme for the improvement of the second line, and if in criticising it they had to take exception to many of the proposals made he hoped that the right hon. Gentleman would only consider that the criticisms were made with a genuine feeling that they desired to do the best they could for the forces of the country, and not from any feeling hostile to himself, or in any way whatever partaking of a Party character. In addition to the difficulty in connection with the long engagement in the territorial army, there was also the further liability to serve in the event of mobilisation for six months. That would also have a very serious effect indeed on a large class of men, including the better class of artisans engaged in the iron and steel trades, the leather and clothing trades, whose services in the event of mobilisation would be absolutely necessary in their factories and workshops for Army supplies. Anybody who was acquainted with the enormous strain upon these and other trades during the South African war would realise how true that was, and to call these men away from their workshops and factories for six months upon mobilisation would stifle the whole trade of the country. The only alternative would be for commanding officers or recruiting authorities, whichever they were, to refuse to accept these men; but to reject such men would be to deprive the territorial army of its very best material. The scheme in any case would have to be reconsidered from that point of view. Another reason why the plan was unsatisfactory was that it did away with the Yeomanry and Volunteers. Parents had no objection whatever to their sons enrolling in the Volunteer force; they knew that it implied no liability for foreign service, except by consent. But the state of affairs would be different when a man joined the territorial Army with the liability of long engagement, the difficulty of notice, compulsory service, and mobilisation. He had a strong impression that they would find a considerable movement in all parts of the country on the part of parents against their sons joining the territorial Army. Unfortunately, but undoubtedly, there still existed a considerable prejudice among the civil population against their sons joining the Regular Army; and it was by maintaining the name of Volunteers and the voluntary character of the Volunteer force that we had escaped the disadvantages of that prejudice. As to the financial arrangements of the Volunteer force, he noticed from Clause 4 of the Memorandum that no payments of any kind were to be made except an allowance for railway fares to the rifle ranges. He thought the withdrawal of the musketry allowance of 4s. would be a very serious matter indeed. He contended that the allowance of £55 per battalion for the expenses of drill hall and rifle ranges would not anything like meet the expenses entailed in the case of a large number of corps. No doubt those details had been carefully worked out from an average of the expenses of Volunteer regiments, but they would cause much hardship in many cases. The object of the Secretary of State in forming the county associations referred to in the Memorandum was to create county feeling, and *esprit de corps*, and to endeavour to win them into the greatest possible state of efficiency. But by Clause 10 they were to take away from these county associations all their individual and county character and put them entirely under the thumb of the military authorities. The Volunteer force owed its position at the present time, not at all to the encouragement of the Government, no matter which Party was in power. All Governments since the existence of the Volunteer force had been very reluctant to give it any sympathy or encouragement. That force, which now consisted of no less than 248,000 men, had always been carried on by its own determination to do something in the service of the country, and to put the county associations under the control of the military authorities would be to deprive them of that voluntary character and that *esprit de corps* which was so absolutely essential to their existence. As regarded the Yeomanry, although as a Volunteer he had looked with considerable suspicion, or rather jealousy, at the large sums and adulation given to the Yeomanry, he recognised that it was a very good force indeed. It now consisted of fifty-six regiments, and to take away by a stroke of the pen the whole of their emoluments, and to give them only when in training 1s. 6d. per day, which was the pay of the cavalry, would be a very serious blow indeed to the efficiency of that force. He must say that, although one admired the courage and the ability the right hon. Gentleman had shown in endeavouring to grapple with the difficulties of the problem, there was a strong feeling in the country that to put the Auxiliary forces and their finance entirely under the control and power of the military authorities would take away from regiments and commanding officers that individuality which had been the backbone of the Volunteer force. He had commanded different Volunteer regiments, including artisan corps, and he knew from experience that the commanding officer was able to veto extravagant expenditure on the part of Committees by the exercise of wholesome and judicious control. He knew that he was in a minority in this respect; but nevertheless he maintained that the financial responsibility of the commanding officer gave him much more authority and control than he could otherwise obtain, and the removal of it would put a premium on the bad regiments; the well-administered regiments would be sacrificed to those who had managed their affairs carelessly and with indifference. He did not admire the constitution of the county associations; and he hoped it was not too late to urge the Secretary of State for War to revise the rule in regard to long service, because he was very apprehensive indeed that his scheme would be more unfavourably received than he had any idea of.

MR. GUEST (Cardiff District) said the reduction of 32,000 men which the Secretary of State was able to announce was not so large as many hon. Members on the Ministerial side of the House had hoped for. But at any rate it was a substantial instalment of that policy of reduction which they desired. When, moreover, it was accompanied by a reduction of the Army Estimates by £2,000,000, that surely was a very satisfactory beginning, and he welcomed the scheme of the Secretary of State, because it appeared to him that the right hon. Gentleman was embarking upon a policy which must end in a far larger reduction of the Army than he was able to bring about in the present year. His right hon. friend the Member for the Forest of Dean had criticised the Secretary of State for War and pointed out the difficulties of the transition stage. But there must always be such a stage in any policy, and he would not be surprised if the Secretary of State for War was able to point out that the difficulties of the transition stage would not be less if the policy which the right hon. Baronet advocated were adopted than they would be under his own scheme. There must be difficulties in the transition stage, but what they had to fix their eyes on was whether the object which they proposed to achieve was a worthy one, and if there were difficulties they must make up their minds to overcome them. The late Secretary of State for War had made a speech the terms of which were, he thought, unfortunate, when contrasted with the very conciliatory speech with which these proposals had been presented. He thought it was a mistake that matters of this kind, which had admittedly puzzled the brains of successive Ministers for War, should be treated in a carping spirit by hon. Members opposite. [Sir HOWARD VINCENT: I did not do that.] He had not said that the hon. and gallant Gentleman had done so; he was alluding to the speech of the late Secretary for War, which seemed to him unfortunate in its terms. The right hon. Gentleman seemed to wish to show that the battalion under the scheme of the Secretary of State for War was a bad one whereas under his own scheme it was a good one. He thought the right hon. Gentleman had proceeded on a false analogy, because he said that the battalions of the line would need reinforcing to the extent of 700 men before they could take the field. Entirely overlooking the fact that the existing process of securing reservists would continue under this scheme just as it had been in the past, and he could not see that the battalion which his right hon. friend the Secretary for War had in his mind would be any less efficient than the battalion which the right hon. Gentleman opposite proposed by his scheme. The men serving with the colours at the present moment would be brought up to their full strength on mobilisation, and there would be no recourse in the first instance to the training battalions. [Mr. HALDANE assented.] Therefore the criticism of the right hon. Gentleman opposite was based upon an entire misapprehension of the proposals laid before the House. The Reserve to-day was 125,000 men, and it would under the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman be larger, because of the five and seven years' enlistments, except that the reduction of the Army would, *pro tanto*, reduce the Reserves.

MR. HALDANE said the Reserves would rise to 136,000, and would be normally 115,000, which would be more than enough for the mobilisation of the whole of the battalions.

MR. GUEST said he was obliged for the interruption, which exactly expressed the point he was making. The battalions in the future would be capable of complete mobilisation on their own Reserves, without having recourse to the training battalions which the right hon. Gentleman proposed to establish. He understood that the Home force would depend upon those reservists whom the training battalions had trained. Therefore, they would not be in a worse position under this scheme than they would have been under the scheme of the right hon. Gentleman opposite. Then the late Secretary for War had made another statement, which had been repeated by others, that the new scheme destroyed the Militia. His right hon. friend did not say so, and he did not think that the conclusion followed from what he had said. There was nothing to prevent his raising his seventy-four training battalions without interfering with the Militia at all, and he hoped he would do that. The object was to merge Militia, Volunteers, and Yeomanry into a new territorial force with territorial names, but he did not think we should gain much by making it a territorial force, and abolishing the old names, which had a great deal of magic in them and were of great value to the force. It was impossible on the "Baker-loo" principle to find a name to include all the forces, and the old names had a value in the sentiment of old traditions. He did not see where the objection came in to retaining the words "Volunteers," "Yeomanry," and "Militia," and to allow them to fall into their new cadres under their old names. He noticed that his right hon. friend the Secretary of State for War laughed, but if he could make that concession to the prejudices of those who had served in these forces, he thought he would be wise to do so. In this connection he would like to ask the right hon. Gentleman if the existing cadres would entirely disappear or would they be used to form the new organisation.

MR. HALDANE said the new organisation would be formed round them, and they would come into the new organisation. The scheme was as far as possible to include them in the new organisation.

MR. GUEST said another point that arose was that we were greatly in excess of the requirements which the right hon. Gentleman had in his mind. The Auxiliary Forces were to be reduced by something like 140,000. He hoped there was to be some elasticity in the number of 300,000 suggested, because it would be a pity to discourage service given voluntarily and which cost little. He thought the observations of the right hon. Member for the Forest of Dean upon the question of keeping the more difficult services, cavalry and artillery, on a professional basis most important having regard to the enormous diminution of horseflesh caused by the introduction of motor cars. The matter of cavalry remounts would have to be very seriously considered in the near future, owing to the fact of motor 'buses and motor cabs taking the place of horse-drawn vehicles in our streets. The problem of cavalry remounts would in the future become very difficult indeed. Apart from these details there was much in the scheme which would commend itself to those who had considered the question of Army reform, because there was no doubt our Auxiliary Forces were almost useless for military purposes at the present time owing to their want of mobility. There were many good points in this scheme, such as combined training and other matters. Never in his experience of the corps with which he was connected was this more demonstrated than in the case of the difficulty and the necessity of transport. It was clear to him that Yeomanry who merely went out for eighteen days drill were not in any sense of the word equipped or efficient for actual warfare, and it was a good feature of the scheme that we were to have an attempt to make these forces efficient. With regard to the reserve of the Auxiliary Forces, he had always regretted that so much good material that passed through the Yeomanry so rapidly was entirely lost sight of. Many of these men had served six years and could be equipped and trained at little cost. The Secretary of State for War had with engaging candour admitted that the force of 150,000 which he had provided under this scheme was based on no calculation of the duties which it had or might have to perform. The original force of 150,000 was based upon the number of drafts we had to supply to our foreign stations. That was the real justification for the army at home. The right hon. Gentleman must remember that the number of men required for drafts depended entirely on the term served by the men, and that in proportion as the term of service was extended so would the number of drafts required be reduced; that if the right hon. Gentleman extended the service to fifteen years he would diminish the number of drafts required and consequently the number of men necessary to be enrolled in this country. The very scheme he was calling into existence would be a further justification for that course if, after three or four years, he was able to create an auxiliary force comparable to that of Switzerland, which would afford a real sense of security to the people of England. If that was achieved it would be an argument for reducing the Regular Army.

MR. WYNDHAM (Dover): I do not rise at this stage to criticise the scheme which the right hon. Gentleman has unfolded with so much ability this afternoon. I shall pass no opinion upon it at the present time, but reserve to myself the right to say at a later stage what impression has been made upon my mind. I think, however, the speech to which we have just listened shows that there are one or two points that ought to be cleared up. The hon. Member who last spoke seemed to think a question of name, and name alone, was involved in the treatment which the right hon. Gentleman has meted out to the Militia and Volunteers. If that is so either he or I have completely misunderstood the speech delivered with so much lucidity by the right hon. Gentleman this afternoon. This is not a question of name and name alone. There have been two views in the past—either that you should do what Pitt intended and what Cardwell intended, namely, that you should bring the Militia nearer to the line and more in touch with the depots—that was one school of thought—or that you should bring your line up to its full strength and efficiency and relegate your Militia to the condition of Volunteers. There were two distinct views as to how you might deal with the Militia. Both were questions of substance and not questions of name. The right hon. Gentleman has done neither of these quite clearly, but has done something else —something which tends to make it difficult to understand what in fact he has done. He has taken so much of the first plan as consists of turning the recruits under it into the depot, and he has taken so much of the second plan as to enable him to hand over the officers to the regiment in a body. He does not want them to enlist nor to get paid for six months, and so they can be Volunteers if they please. That is a new way of dealing with the Militia, on which I shall express an opinion when the opportunity offers. In the next place, I must dissociate myself altogether from a remark made by the last speaker. He accused my right hon. friend the Member for Croydon of approaching the subject in a partisan spirit. I do not think that charge was justified. My right hon. friend has almost a unique knowledge of all the technical aspects of this question, having devoted years of his life to its study, years before he was War Minister, and I think no one who heard him will think that he went an inch beyond what might be expected from a man who had the interests of the Army at heart. I think I may say for every one on this side of the House that we shall be critical, but candid. The right hon. Gentleman has been studying the matter for over a year, and he has given us the result of his researches in a three hours' speech. I hope, therefore, that he will not expect those who care not only for the Army but the Auxiliary Forces, to keep pace with him, but that he will give them time to form their conclusions and time to express those conclusions before he regards himself as in a position to say that he has collected the sense of the House. We must give candid consideration to the proposals of the right hon. Gentleman, because we have never made the defences of the country a Party question, and because we are under an obligation to the right hon. Gentleman which I should be the first person to acknowledge. The right hon. Gentleman has done what his predecessors did, I believe for the first time in 1895, and did consistently for ten years, that is to say, he has explained to the soldier what he calls the policy of the Cabinet, and when the soldier said what was required, it was admitted that so much should be done. I do not think I exaggerate when I say—this is not a matter of Party recrimination—that up to 1895, both Liberal and Conservative Governments said that the Navy must have all its wants; but when it came to the Army they proceeded upon the lines of the Pickwick trial, and said that what the soldier stated was not evidence. We maintain, and the right hon. Gentleman maintains, that what the soldier says is evidence after he has been subjected to cross-examination, and, therefore, if any fault should ultimately be found with this scheme, the blame will not rest upon the soldier but upon the Government, who have told the soldier what their policy was for the defence of the country should war presently come upon us. The right hon. Gentleman in his memorandum has disposed once and for all of of the somewhat loose charge that the increase of the Army Estimates is due to incompetence and extravagance. I know the right hon. Gentleman has said that because ammunition columns were not formed, therefore, we could not mobilise the whole forces of the Army. I make him a present of that; it has been effectually dealt with by my right hon. friend the Member for Croydon. We supplied the Artillery with guns, and we supplied the Auxiliary troops and the Army, and we did our share of the work. The right hon. Gentleman will have our good wishes if he completes it, and there need be no recrimination between the two sides of the House as to that. We can, therefore, give a perfectly candid judgment upon these proposals which we must study in print to-morrow. We must study the speech and the printed document which he has laid upon the Table this evening, and then we shall be able to give our views upon the great proposals which he has unfolded. The right hon. Gentleman's scheme pre-supposes an effective Regular army and a cheap Regular army. He has claimed great economies on the

Regular Army. Will the right hon. Gentleman explain the origin of his economies? Speaking this afternoon, he said that only £400,000 was due to reduction in *personnel*, but in his Memorandum he put the reduction in *personnel* at £1,120,000. There is a discrepancy which I have no doubt can be explained, but which I think ought to be explained. The right hon. Gentleman has not really modified the great features of the problem which we all have to face—the problem of keeping a large army abroad in time of peace. He has not touched it. Then where do the economies come from? On turning to the Estimates I find that they come largely from transport, remounts, and supplies. As the right hon. Baronet pointed out, and as occurred to me, while you are knocking off horses from the Artillery and mounted infantry, the Indian Government, whose model you follow, are adding 3,000 horses to the establishment. We come to the next great general source of economy, which includes harness. It is all very well to have theoretical plans for mobilising in the face of the remote contingency of a great European war, but I can tell the right hon. Gentleman that the two points of the greatest difficulty and anxiety during the first six weeks of the war in South Africa, and again in 1901, were horses and harness. You cannot expand your supply of horses or your supply of harness on the spur of the moment. At the beginning of 1901, after the war had been going on for more than a year, and when the country was clamouring for more mounted troops, the demand was only met by smuggling 30,000 saddles into this country from all parts of the world. That is a form of reserve which can only be provided by looking at the exact proportions of Regulars to Reservists and the three arms together. The next great source of reduction is armaments, £872,000. That is partly a matter of book-keeping and has nothing to do with any policy of the right hon. Gentleman. These four items account for a reduction of £1,660,000. For the rest, the reductions and increases pretty well balance. I fail to see any connection between this reduction of £2,000,000 and the policy which the right hon. Gentleman announced last year or the policy which he has announced to-night. I welcome the reduction except in regard to horses and harness, upon which I think more money can be judiciously expended. I do, however, ask the right hon. Gentleman to go a little more closely into the origin of his economies. It is not enough to say, "Here is a saving of £2,000,000 and 7,000 men added to the effective." Why are 7,000 men added to the effective? Because we have got a huge increase in the Reserve, an automatic increase of over 12,000 men. Before the war it was a matter of speculation, but nevertheless within 1 per cent. the available Reservists joined the colours. The right hon. Gentleman says that under his organisation the old Reserve will stand normally at 115,000 men, but, in view of the abolition of eight cadres, the reduction of the period of enlistment from seven years to five, and the removal of thirty men from the establishment of all the regiments at home, I hope we shall be reassured on that point by some arithmetical argument which will carry conviction to our minds. I would also ask the right hon. Gentleman to clear up the question of the artillery. The right hon. Gentleman has explained that he is going to keep a certain number of battalions at home and thirty-three others upon a very low establishment, which are to be a sort of training school for the second line. I believe I am right in saying that the right hon. Gentleman has got one horse and two field artillery batteries less in this year's Estimates than he had last year. I am afraid the right hon. Gentleman has calculated on reducing the batteries of field artillery to a standard which none of those who sit on the Opposition side of the House have ever contemplated, and to which we cannot give our assent without consideration. Is it proposed to reduce all the field artillery to a four-gun standard?

MR. HALDANE: We shall probably keep some batteries at full strength.

MR. WYNDHAM: At present all the field artillery at home is being reduced to the four-gun standard, and thirty-three batteries are being reduced to a two-gun standard. There are three batteries gone; and it is certain that the right hon. Gentleman holds a view which is not held on the Opposition benches about the bulk of the field artillery, and that he contemplates reducing thirty-three batteries to an educational basis and taking them from a military basis. I want to know whether that policy has been made so far concrete in fact as to explain some of the reductions in Votes 6, 7, 8 and 9, which are inexplicable on the theory that they are due to *personnel* as stated by the right hon. Gentleman in his opening speech.

MR. HALDANE: I think it will be convenient that I should answer at once the questions which have been addressed to me. The speech of the right hon. Gentleman is characterised by the fairness of its tone and the appropriateness of the questions which he has asked. I take what was said in regard to the artillery. We have not reduced a single battery. We have brought home six batteries from abroad, and we have put them on a four-gun basis. What I think has misled the right hon. Gentleman is this. We have taken off the programme six guns which belonged to the depots, because we have consolidated seven depots into four. I do not know where the right hon. Gentleman got his reduction of batteries.

MR. WYNDHAM: I got them by comparing last year with this year.

MR. HALDANE: All I can say is that having the comparison before me we have reduced no batteries. We propose to reduce the establishment to a four-gun basis in time of peace, following a sound Continental principle, and keep the horses and men in reserve; but we have reduced no batteries. What we have done is to apportion carefully the amount of artillery to the infantry division, and the surplus we have turned into training batteries. On that principle we have gone throughout. I hope we shall have enough to make twelve training brigades. As regards a reserve of artillery, well, I say frankly, that I do not believe in a reserve of artillery. Then we get men who do not know the new weapons, and we have difficulty in training these reserves to bring them up to the standard of knowledge required. I pass to the reduction of the establishment of the battalions. Observe we have brought them down to 720 in time of peace for home defence. But the right hon. Gentleman does not imagine that our battalions at home were anything like that strength. This reduction is a proper one to make because it brings facts more into accordance with names. The three years system has made it impossible for a long time to find the drafts. There is no question of strength; it is a question of establishment, and for some time to come we may be well content with 720. It represents more strength than we shall have. The right hon. Gentleman asks what is the real meaning of these reductions. How is it that we show a reduction so large when we have only reduced so few men? Well, it is a very interesting revelation. In the War Office a practice has been pursued on the part of the military side always to estimate to the margin. They loaded their Estimate because they were afraid of offending against a system which had been the practice. That acted on the Treasury and on the financial side. They always took more than they wanted. I found a system of over-estimating was going right through the whole Department. The heads of the Department did not know the extent to which it went. They always loaded a bit, the people below them loaded a bit without their knowing, and the people below them loaded, and so on until at the end of the year there were surpluses that for very shame had to be spent. The reason there is such a reduction in the artillery this year is that these surpluses have been used in paying cash and getting discounts. The cost of expensive guns has been spread over five years by the right hon. Gentleman opposite, but by paying up earlier we get 3 per cent. discount. As a result of this loading the Estimates we have been able to prepay the guns. This year, too, establishments have been brought down to strength, and thereby a great deal of waste has been got rid of. It is possible that this year we will be able to return, not much, but some money to the Treasury. I think the War Office has got into the habit of over-estimating, and it will take a time before we extirpate the notion from their minds in regard to that practice. The right hon. Gentleman referred to the Volunteers, but he left one very material element out of account. The reduction of the Volunteers is due to two elements. We have take a Supplementary Estimate this year for payments in connection with that force. What we have been proposing is that it will be no longer necessary to apply the same sort of capitation grant. Thereby we will reduce the annual expenditure for Volunteers. We found that the payment of 5s. a day for the Yeomanry had a most prejudicial effect, and consequently we abolished it. The right hon. Gentleman referred to stores. The reason why we are able to diminish the expenditure on stores is that we have a gigantic supply of saddlery as the result of the War. The other reductions in stores have nothing to do with war, but are made in connection with domestic use, and for the convenience of soldiers who were not going out to a campaign. Then in regard to horses, there was a great deal of over-estimate for the supply of horses, and we have reduced the money for, but not the establishment of, horses. In War Office parlance, horses included mules; and a great deal of the reduction was of mules used on works in South Africa. As to the question of India, I can assure the right hon. Gentleman that the War Office has not the slightest control over the way in which the Indian Government manages the Indian Army. The Indian Government has to find the horses.

*SIR CHARLES DILKE: You have fewer horses here than the same officers think necessary in India.

MR. HALDANE: I believe that the establishment of horses is high in India, but our advisors think that the large margin in India is not necessary here, because in India they do not register the horses in the same way as we do. The War Office has no more control over that than they have over the winds and tide, and if we were to interfere with Lord Kitchener we would hear of it very sharply.

*SIR C. DILKE: Perhaps the War Office knows what is needed in regard to the supply of horses, but dares not ask for it for fear of the House of Commons.

MR. HALDANE: My right hon. friend might as well argue that because it was necessary to keep up the establishment in India to nearly war strength we should keep every battalion at home up to war strength. There is all the difference in the world between the two cases; and I think my right hon. friend has, for once, made a mistake. The explanation of the economies, broadly speaking, is that we propose to reduce the establishment to the actual strength. I agree with what the right hon. Gentleman said in regard to the Auxiliary Forces. It is not a question of names. We wish to make real changes. We think the condition of the Auxiliary Forces is deplorable, and we cannot remedy that state of matters without making changes which go far beyond mere names. It is because we think these changes are absolutely necessary that I have made this appeal to the House.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON (Durham, Barnard Castle) rose to move the following Amendment:—

"That, in the opinion of this House, a Committee should be appointed to consider and report upon how far the work of Arsenals and similar Government establishments can be kept more regular, so as to keep the machinery more fully employed and prevent frequent discharges of workmen."

He said that they on the Labour Benches thought that after the very comprehensive statement of the Secretary of State for War they would be all the better if they had more time to consider the policy which the right hon. Gentleman had so ably outlined. In his Amendment they asked for the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the whole situation as to the facts at the Arsenals and other Government establishments in so far as the employment of labour was concerned, and, secondly in so far as the discharge of labour brought to a standstill the expensive machinery which the State had there set up. In regard to Woolwich, he found that whereas in the year 1901–2 the total hands were 26,052, that number had been actually reduced until there was something like 10,000 less workmen employed in the Arsenal to-day. That was a very serious matter. It was a serious thing for a town like Woolwich in the first place, and he thought it was also a serious matter from the point of view of the Government. They all knew that the conditions of employment in Government establishments as a rule attracted the best type of workman. It was well that it should be so, because in case of an acute emergency, when the Government was called upon to act suddenly, it was desirable that when there was an abnormal demand they should feel that they could rely upon their workmen, not only from the point of view of efficiency, but from the point of view of character. He ventured to say that the policy of irregularity of employment in our great Government Departments would not have a tendency to attract the best type of people to the Government employment. The consequence would be,if a less capable class of workman were drafted into the Government establishments, a greater amount of risk would be incurred by the Government in case of grave emergency. Not only had they to complain about the exceedingly numerous discharges of workmen, but there was another matter to which he might call attention. He and a few of his colleagues visited Woolwich and he personally had also visited other large establishments such as the dockyard at Devonport. What was to be found at those establishments? There were tens of thousands of tons of most valuable and up-to-date machinery standing absolutely idle. What did that involve? It must involve to some extent the loss of National money, because as years went by machinery had a tendency to become obsolete. A good deal of our machinery was scrap-heaped, and nothing like what it cost the Government was gained out of it. It was absolutely essential that we should get the best turnover possible in regard to all our Government machinery, and we could not have that if we had idle machinery capable of employing ten thousand men. He held that by keeping this machinery idle a loss was entailed upon the National Exchequer and upon the public as a whole. The Amendment which he proposed was in order to prevent the irregularity of employment and the loss involved by machinery standing still and becoming obsolete. A Committee should be appointed to consider the whole matter. He might be told that much of the machinery at a Department like the Arsenal at Woolwich could not be adapted for the purposes of other Departments; that was to say, that if we wanted to make motors or bicycles for the Army they might be told that the machinery was not adapted to such work. As a practical man, who for the best part of his life had been engaged in similar occupations, he would contest that opinion, and hold that the greater portion of the machinery except that which was absolutely specialised could be easily adapted for work in other forms of employment. In the foundry department, with which he was well acquainted, there could be this adaptation for making a greater part of the castings which were now purchased from contractors. He therefore said that, although that objection might apply to one or two departments, it did not hold good as a whole. But supposing that it did, and the case was made good against him, surely it would restore the confidence of the public and allay the feeling of uneasiness which was prevalent in Woolwich, Portsmouth, Chatham, and Devonport if a Committee were appointed to inquire into the whole business and bring up a report to this House. If the Report went against them they would be able to go to those whom they represented and tell them that they had been proved to be wrong.

Mr. CROOKS (Woolwich) seconded the Amendment. He said there were many sides to this question. Here was a town with 142,000 inhabitants which, practically speaking, had only one employer, and to throw upon the labour market 10,000 men was a very serious business indeed. There were very few other businesses to which these people could turn. Many of them had settled down at Woolwich and had bought their houses for the purpose of living and rearing their children in that place. The proposed Committee might find out that these people could be transferred from one department to another without injury to the public service and without extra expense. It seemed to him that Government Departments were too much like little worlds in themselves. They were so independent of each other, and this Committee might find out some way of transferring men from one Department to another. As his hon. friend had pointed out, these people were highly skilled men, who if they were dismissed were hardly likely to come back when they were required in an emergency. He wished to suggest also that while the Government were considering the desirability of fixing the minimum number of men who should be employed, they ought also to fix the proportion of work which they were going to give them. He did not wish to belittle the difficulty of dividing the amount of work between the Government establishments and contractors, but as a business man he held they ought to keep their own machinery employed before they gave out work to outsiders. He thought that on consideration the Government would find that the proportion of one-third to two-thirds should be altered. All that the Labour Members desired was that these questions should be considered by a Committee from a practical standpoint, and then that they should be considered by this House from a practical point of view.

Amendment proposed—

> "To leave out from the word 'That' to the end of the Question, in order to add the words, 'in the opinion of this House, a Committee should be appointed to consider and report upon how far the work of Arsenals and similar Government establishments can be kept more regular, so as to keep the machinery more fully employed and prevent frequent discharges of workmen.'"—(*Mr. Arthur Henderson.*)

Question proposed, "That the words proposed to be left out stand part of the Question."

MR. WALTERS (Sheffield, Brightside) said he did not wish to detain the House, but he thought they should realise that there were two sides to this question. The hon. Members who had moved and seconded the Amendment, had very fairly and temperately put the case of the workmen in the Government Arsenals, and he desired now to draw attention to the fact that there were a large number of private firms in this country which were chiefly maintained by Government contracts. These businesses had been established not merely with the good word of the Government, but had in many cases been extended on the definite statement of the Government that additional work would be given to them. These establishments were well equipped, and had highly skilled workmen trained to the work. When these men were not employed through the absence of Government work they were just as much out of work and in precisely the same sense as arsenal workmen, and it was quite as pathetic to see these men out of work at Brightside as to see similar men out of work at Woolwich. He therefore asked, if this Committee was appointed, that some consideration should be given to this aspect of the question. With regard to the question of machinery and equipment, he pointed out that the machinery of the Government arsenals was for the purpose of extension. If the whole of that machinery was employed to the extent of its capacity in time of peace, there could be no extension in time of war. And no Government could expect a private contractor to keep a large amount of machinery available for an extra demand which might take place on the outbreak of a war. The private contractor was kept for two purposes; first for the skill, invention, and initiation that was found in private firms; and, secondly, to enable the Government to extend their facilities in time of war. If the establishment of these private yards was reduced, if the Government did not give them work now, they would cease to be efficient; and it would be a disastrous policy to deprive the country of the facilities of the private yards when, in the stress of war, there would be no power of extension in the Government yards. The most modern armaments of war were invented and manufactured in private yards, and he contended that by diminishing the engineering enterprise and invention of private yards, the Government would be, not only handicapping themselves in invention, but in expansion if that hideous thing, a state of war, arose. When this matter was regarded as a labour question there was another aspect entirely. These men employed in private yards did a considerable amount of work for foreign Governments. It was only possible to carry on that work because the British Government gave out its work to private yards, and so enabled them to have a staff and equipment in order to obtain large contracts from other Governments. Therefore, if the Government shut down the private yards they would rob the workmen of this other work which they would not then be able to obtain.

MR. HALDANE: The observations of my hon. friend illustrate, once more, the complexity of this trouble. These private yards are part of our national requirements. We must keep them up, and if we keep them up we must reward them. We reward them by giving them two-thirds of the orders we place. That is a policy to which we must adhere. If we fix an establishment we must fix a very low establishment, because otherwise there will be no orders to give out. I am quite aware of the difficulties, and feel very greatly the hardships which have been caused by no fault of their own, to the men at Woolwich, and if without interfering with our obligations to the private yards we can help these men we shall be very glad to do so. I am very doubtful whether the hon. Member's proposal would come to much. We may be able ourselves to do things at Woolwich that are connected with munitions of war. I have an open mind on the subject, but if any investigation takes place the report must be to myself as the guardian of the public purse. I cannot, however, try to establish a national workshop. The fall which has taken place in the number of persons employed is due to the change from a time of war to a time of peace. In the year 1894–5, 11,510 men were employed at Woolwich; then it went up to 11,912, and to 20,511 in the war time, and the number is down now to 11,345. I hope that we have nearly touched the bottom. The Government has under consideration the question of establishment, and whether there are any other things they can manufacture. I am rather sceptical about the matter; but on the condition that the report is made to me, as responsible to the House, I am content and anxious to have such an investigation as will satisfy hon. Members opposite. I, therefore, suggest that if they will propose the names of three experts I will propose three others, and they together can go through the establishment at Woolwich and satisfy themselves whether there are other things that can be made there consistent with the obligations to private factories and the keeping up of the reserves for war, which cannot be let down. It may be that some things may be done at Woolwich, and if that be so, I shall assist it by every means in my power.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Will Sheffield be represented upon this Committee?

MR. HALDANE: I think Sheffield is too suspicious, but I should have no objections to having my hon. and gallant friend himself on that Committee.

SIR HOWARD VINCENT: Thank you.

MR. KEIR HARDIE (Merthyr Tydvil) said there were many articles used by the Government that might be manufactured at Woolwich in time of peace. Such employment would retain the workmen on the establishment, and the Government would be enabled to expand in time of emergency. In many ways such a policy would be beneficial to the Government. What he wished to know was whether the inquiry of the Committee was to be confined to articles of war only, or as to whether other articles than those for war might be made at Woolwich.

MR. HALDANE: I am very dubious about the Arsenal being a universal purveyor. It will be found that a great many things connected with war are not of a very war-like character, such as carriages and so on, and I think there will be a very large scope for this inquiry.

MR. ARTHUR HENDERSON, having regard to the very satisfactory answer of the right hon. Gentleman, asked leave to withdraw his Amendment.

Amendment, by leave, withdrawn.

Main Question put, and agreed to.

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

ARMY ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

Committee report progress; to sit again To-morrow.

And, it being half-past Eleven of the Clock, Mr. SPEAKER adjourned the House without Question put, pursuant to the Standing Order.

Adjourned at three minutes before Twelve o'clock.

An Asterisk (*) at the commencement of a Speech indicates revision by the Member.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

Tuesday, 26th February, 1907.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR acquainted the House, That the Clerk of the Parliaments had laid upon the Table the Certificates from the Examiners that the further Standing Orders applicable to the following Bills have been complied with:—Electric Supply Corporation [H.L.]; Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas [H.L.]; Midland Railway [H.L.]; Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier [H.L.]

The same were ordered to lie on the Table.

Baine's Name Bill [H.L.]. Presented and read 1ª.

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A Bill to dissolve the marriage of Henry Morgan Byrne, Barrister-at-Law, with Edith Laura Byrne, his now wife, and to enable him to marry again; and for other purposes. Presented (on petition), and a copy of the proceedings in and of the decree of the King's Bench Matrimonial Division of the High Court of Justice in Ireland delivered (on oath); Bill read 1ª; and to be read 2ª on Monday the 11th of March next. The usual Orders made.

Byrne's Divorce Bill [H.L.].—A witness ordered to attend on the Second Reading.

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed.

North British Railway Bill [H.L.]; Oxford and District Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed. The Committees to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª, and committed.

Selsey Water and Gas Bill [H.L.].—Read 2ª (according to order), and committed. The Committee to be proposed by the Committee of Selection.

Standing Committee.—Ordered, That a Standing Committee be appointed for the consideration of such Public Bills as may be committed to it by the House.

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill.—Brought from the Commons; read 1ª; to be printed; and (pursuant to the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899) deemed to have been read 2ª (The Lord Hamilton of Dalzell) and reported from the Committee. (No. 6.)

NEW BILL.

COMPANIES ACT (DEBENTURES AND DEBENTURE STOCK) BILL [H.L.]

A Bill to amend the law in regard to Debentures and Debenture Stock. Was presented by the Lord Avebury; read 1ª; to be printed; and to be read 2ª on Tuesday next. (No. 7.)

AUSTRALIAN STATES CONSTITUTION BILL [H.L.]

[SECOND READING.]

Order of the Day for the Second Reading read.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES (The Earl of ELGIN): My Lords, this Bill is intended to deal with a great complication of legal difficulties, but I think I shall be able to make a short statement to your Lordships which will suffice to induce you to give it a Second Reading. The first Act which I have to mention is the Australian Constitution Act of 1842, which established a Legislative Council for New South Wales, and in that Act there were provisions with regard to the reservation of certain classes of Bills. Bills of three classes were to be reserved—first, those that altered and affected the electoral areas; secondly, those that altered the number of members; and, thirdly, those that altered the salary of the Governor.

In 1850 another Australian Constitution Act was passed which provided for Legislative Councils in four other Colonies—in Victoria, in Van Dieman's Land as it was then called, in South Australia, and in Western Australia. This Act adopted the provisions in regard to reservation which I have already given, and it also provided that other Bills should be reserved which concerned the election or qualification of Members, and also those which were for the establishment of Legislative Houses in place of the Legislative Councils provided for in the Bill. All the five Colonies that I have named have passed local Constitution Acts. In three cases—in the case of New South Wales, Victoria, and Western Australia—those Acts were confirmed by Imperial Acts, but in Tasmania and South Australia they were not confirmed. The sixth Australian State—Queensland—was dealt with in an Order in Council in 1859, but since then a local Act has been passed which, however, has not been confirmed by an Imperial Act.

Your Lordships will observe that there are great opportunities of differences of opinion arising out of this complication of legislation, and as a matter of fact questions have continually recurred raising the point of the application of these original provisions for reservation to Bills which have been subsequently passed by the present Legislature, and the difference has been marked between the Imperial Law Officers and the Colonial Law Officers, the Imperial Law Officers holding that this provision still applied and the Colonial Law Officers holding that Bills of a purely electoral character were free from this reservation.

The Bill which I ask your Lordships to read a second time to-day meets the Colonial view. It proposes to free from reservation, in the second sub-section of Clause 1, all purely Electoral Bills; but it maintains, in the first sub-section of that clause, the reservation of Bills which either alter the Constitution or affect the salary of the Governor. This subject, my Lords, has been discussed very elaborately indeed for four or five years. It has been referred to the Law Officers both of the late Government and of the present Government. It has also been examined by the Law Officers of all the six Australian Colonies, and it is satisfactory to me that I have to submit to your Lordships a Bill which has the assent of all the parties concerned.

The last opinion of the Law Officers of the Crown in this country is that they concur in the Bill as it now stands. With regard to the feeling in Australia, I should like to read a telegram which I have received from the Governor of New South Wales, dated January 31st. He says—

> "Referring to my telegram of 12th December, I am desired by Ministers to ask that, as the draft amended Bill endorsed in despatch has been accepted by Governments of States concerned, you will take steps for passing measure into law at early date."

I do not think that I need say more to recommend the measure to your Lordships, and I ask that the Bill may be given a Second Reading and expedited in its progress.

Moved, "That the Bill be now read 2ª."—(*The Earl of Elgin.*)

*THE MARQUESS OF LANSDOWNE: My Lords, I do not think anyone on this side is likely to offer any objection to the Bill of which the noble Earl has just moved the Second Reading. It is quite clear that legislation is desirable, and the particular proposal before us has, I understand, been circulated to the Colonies concerned and received their unanimous approval. If, therefore, any criticism is to be offered—and I do not suggest that any criticism is necessary—it would clearly be more appropriate at a later stage.

On Question, Bill read 2ª (according to order), and committed to a Committee of the Whole House on Thursday next.

PALACE OF WESTMINSTER.

The Earl Beauchamp added to the Select Committee.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION.

The Lords following, viz.—

M. Ripon (*L. Privy Seal*)
D. Bedford
D. Northumberland
M. Lansdowne
E. Lauderdale
E. Waldegrave
E. Rosse
E. Cawdor
E. Camperdown
V. Churchill
L. Balfour
L. Ribblesdale
L. Denman
L. Belper
L. Brougham and Vaux
L. Newton

with the Chairman of Committees, were appointed a Committee to select and propose to the House the names of the Five Lords to form a Select Committee for the consideration of each opposed Private Bill.

COMMITTEE OF SELECTION FOR THE STANDING COMMITTEE.

Appointed: the Lords following, with the Chairman of Committees, were named of the Committee:—

E. Liverpool
(*L. Steward*)
E. Jersey
E. Waldegrave
V. Churchill
L. Balfour
L. Ribblesdale
L. Granard
(*E. Granard*)
L. Kintore
(*E. Kintore*)
L. Lawrence

House adjourned at twenty minutes before Five o'clock, till To-morrow, a quarter past Four o'clock.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Tuesday, 26th February, 1907.

The House met at a quarter before Three of the Clock.

PRIVATE BILL BUSINESS.

PRIVATE BILLS (STANDING ORDER 62 COMPLIED WITH).

Mr. Speaker laid upon the Table Report from one of the Examiners of Petitions for Private Bills, That, in the case of the following Bill, referred on the First Reading thereof, Standing Order No. 62 has been complied with, viz.:— Worthing Gas Bill.

Ordered, That the Bill be read a second time.

PRIVATE LEGISLATION PROCEDURE (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1899.

The Chairman of Ways and Means, reported, That, after conferring with the Chairman of Committees of the House of Lords, for the purpose of determining in which House of Parliament the respective Bills, under the Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899, should be first considered, they had determined that the following Bills should originate in the House of Lords, viz.:— Buckhaven Dock; Electric Supply Corporation; General Accident, Fire, and Life Assurance Corporation, Limited; Glasgow Corporation; Renfrewshire Upper District (Eastwood and Mearns) Water; Royal Bank of Scotland.

Report to lie upon the Table.

Basingstoke Gas Bill; Falmouth Gas Bill; London and North Western Railway (Supperannuation Fund) Bill; Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway (Abandonment) Bill; Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill. Read a second time, and committed.

STANDING ORDERS.

Resolutions reported from the Select Committee:—

"That, in the case of the London County Council (General Powers) Bill, petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the petiton of 'Restaurant Keepers, etc.,' the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

"That, in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, etc.) Bill, petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the petition of the 'Wanstead Urban District Council,' the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

"That, in the case of the Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill, petition for dispensing with Standing Order 128 in the case of the petition of the 'Wanstead Urban District Council,' the said Standing Order ought to be dispensed with."

"That, in the case of the Barry Railway, petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with:— That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, on the condition that so much of Clause 27 as proposes to authorise the Company to take and use the waters of the Rhydwaedlyd, Nant-cwm-Nsfydd and Nant-y-Briwnant brooks be struck out of the Bill:—That the Committee on the

Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with.' "

"That, in the case of the Rawtenstall Corporation, petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill, on the condition that the powers to construct Tramways Nos. 10, 11, and 11A are struck out of the Bill :—That the Committee on the Bill do report how far such Order has been complied with.' "

"That, in the case of the South Eastern and London, Chatham, and Dover Railways, petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to proceed with their Bill."

"That, in the case of the Collooney, Ballina, and Belmullet Railways and Piers, petition for leave to deposit a petition for Bill, the Standing Orders ought to be dispensed with :—That the parties be permitted to deposit their petition for Bill."

Resolutions agreed to.

PETITIONS.

ROYAL HIBERNIAN ACADEMY.

Petitions against removal of academic functions ; from Dublin and other places; and, Notting Hill and other places ; to lie upon the Table.

WILLIAMS, THOMAS.

Petition of Thomas Williams, for redress of grievances ; to lie upon the Table.

RETURNS, REPORTS, ETC.,

WAGES AND EFFECTS OF DECEASED SEAMEN.

Return [presented 13th February] ; to be printed. [No. 51.].

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

Copy presented, of Report on the state of the Finances of the University made by the University Court, for the year 1905–6 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table, and to be printed. [No. 52.].

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH.

Copy presented, of Annual Statistical Report by the University Court of the University of Edinburgh for the year 1905–6 [by Act] ; to lie upon the Table and to be printed. [No. 53.].

TRADE REPORT (ANNUAL SERIES).

Copy presented, of Diplomatic and Consular Report, Annual Series, No. 3746 [by Command] ; to lie upon the Table.

CIVIL SERVICES AND REVENUE DEPARTMENTS ESTIMATES, 1907–8.

Copy presented, of Estimates for Civil Services and Revenue Departments for the year ending 31st March 1908, together with a Copy of the Memorandum by the Financial Secretary to the Treasury relating thereto [by Command] ; Referred to the Committee of Supply, and to be printed. [No. 54.].

PAPERS LAID UPON THE TABLE BY THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE.

Irish Land Commission (Account), Copy of Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General upon the Account of the Irish Land Commission for the year ended 31st March 1906 [by Act] ; to be printed. [No. 55.].

Church Temporalities (Ireland), Copy of Report of the Comptroller and Auditor-General upon the Account of the Irish Land Commission in respect of Church Temporalities in Ireland for the year ended 31st March, 1906 [by Act] ; to be printed. [No. 56.].

SUPREME COURT OF JUDICATURE TRIAL OF ELECTION PETITIONS, 1906–7.

Return ordered, "showing how the £3,598 voted on the Estimates for 1906–7 for the Trial of Election Petitions has been expended."—(*Mr. Morton.*)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CIRCULATED WITH THE VOTES.

Coal Expenditure of British and Foreign Navies.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lancashire, N.W.): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty what was the coal expenditure, actual or approximate, of the Navies of Great Britain, the United States, Germany, and France for the years 1900 to 1906 respectively; and what is the sum estimated for 1907 for Great Britain.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson*). It is not considered in the interests of the public service to give any details of coal consumption in the British Navy. Neither France nor Germany publish any statement of the quantity of coal purchased annually.

Increase of Pay for Chargemen in Dockyards.

MR. BRAMSDON (Portsmouth): To ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether, considering that the duties of chargemen of shipwrights, fitters, joiners and other trades in the Royal Dockyards, are in every way identical, their Lordships can see their way clear to extend the recent concession of 6d. per day increase of pay, granted to a percentage of chargemen of shipwrights upon their 1906 petition, to all other trades.

(*Answered by Mr. Edmund Robertson.*) I cannot admit my hon. friend's suggestion that the duties of all chargemen of trades are identical. The Admiralty are unable to extend the recent concession in the manner proposed.

Rent Fixing Applications.

MR. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he will state the number of applications for the fixing of first and second term rents respectively awaiting hearing by the Sub-Commissioners; the number of appeals lodged with the Head Commission; and when it is estimated the respective cases will be disposed of.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) On 31st January, 1907, the number of fair rent applications pending before the Sub-Commission Courts was 6,932, namely, 2,962 for first-term rents and 3,970, for second-term rents. The number of appeals pending on the same date was 7,367, namely 1,804 first-term rents and 5,563 second-term rents. It is estimated that all these cases will be disposed of within two years.

Arabic Language in Egyptian Schools.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether, by the Egyptian Government's decree of the 22nd June, 1893, it was enacted that the Arabic language should be the medium for teaching all subjects in the Egyptian schools; whether the decree has been abrogated; and whether the scarcity of teachers, now alleged as a reason for the lack of instruction in Arabic, has been the result of the policy pursued by the British control in Egypt in disregard of the decree.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) The decree in question provides that the programmes of the Egyptian Government schools shall include instruction in Arabic in as large a measure as possible, in order to ensure a thorough knowledge of that language, and that no certificate of primary or secondary studies nor any definitive certificate shall be granted by the Ministry of Public Instruction to a candidate, whatever his knowledge of other matters, unless he can show that he possesses knowledge of the Arabic language as laid down in the official programmes of the Government. I have no information that this decree has been abrogated. As regards the last part of the hon. Member's Question, I beg to refer him to the Answer given to the Question on this subject asked by him on the 21st instant.†

The Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether he is aware that a charge of £E11,964 has for many years past appeared in the Egyptian Budget in respect of the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; whether he will state the respective items which together make up the above expenditure; whether he can state by what sums the expenditure under this head has been increased during the past five years; and whether, seeing that the Foreign Affairs of Egypt are, for all practical purposes, conducted, and controlled by the British Government, he will direct the British Agent to advise the Egyptian Government to reduce considerably the amount above-mentioned.

---

† See (4) *Debates*, clxix., 1036.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey.*) I beg to refer the hon. Member to the published Budgets of the Egyptian Government which will provide him with all the information he desires. I must demur entirely to the statement made in the last sentence of this Question. Owing to the International situation in Egypt, the Egyptian Ministry for Foreign Affairs has an exceptionally large number of questions to deal with, and whatever control is exercised by the British representative in Egypt is of a general character; it does not take the place of the daily administrative work, and the existence of a separate department of the Egyptian Government is absolutely necessary.

Concessions Granted to the late Mr. Knox Brown.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs how many and what mining or prospecting concessions were granted to the late Mr. Knox Brown by the Egyptian and Soudan Governments, or either of them; what were the dates when such concessions were granted, and for what periods; where were they situated, and what area did each comprise; were any and what companies formed, and at what dates, to work such concessions; what was the share capital of each, and what was the nominal value of such shares; to what extent were the shares in each of such companies subscribed for; how many of such companies, and which, are at the present time working such concessions; what are the dividends paid by each since their inception; and what are the respective values of their shares.

(*Answered by Sir Edward Grey*). I have no information on the subject. The concessions date several years back. Much of the information desired by the hon. Member would be very difficult, if not impossible, to obtain; and, as the subject appears to be of little public interest, I do not consider that I should be justified in putting the Egyptian Government to the trouble and expense of drawing up a Report on the matter.

Payment of Forced Labourers in Fiji.

MR. T. F. RICHARDS (Wolverhampton, W.): To ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether he is aware that forced labour is being employed for the construction of a government road between Suva and Navua, Fiji, payment to each man amounting to about 4s. per annum; and that the Governor, in view of the fact that the pay was inadequate to provide the natives with clothing, decreed that they should have freedom of choice of work during November and December so that they might obtain wages to buy clothing; whether the natives in one district were prosecuted for claiming this privilege and were fined with the alternative of a month's imprisonment; and will he say what action he proposes to take.

(*Answered by Mr. Churchill.*) The Secretary of State has no information on the subject, but will ask the Governor for a Report.

Amendment and Consolidation of Poor Law Statutes and Local Government Board Orders.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): To ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state the number to date received by the Local Government Board of resolutions passed, or petitions presented, in favour of the consolidation and amendment of the Poor Law Statutes and Local Government

Board Orders by boards of guardians and other local authorities in England and Wales since December, 1903.

(*Answered by Mr. John Burns.*) The number is 231.

Issue and Payment of Postal Orders in Great Britain and Ireland.

MR. FIELD (Dublin, St. Patrick): To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state the respective total amounts of postal orders issued and paid in Ireland and in Great Britain for the last period for which the figures are available; and what percentage of the Irish payments was composed of postal orders issued at post offices in Great Britain, and *vice versa.*

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The total values of the postal orders issued during the financial year 1905–6, the latest period for which the figures are available, were £36,239,000 and £1,780,000 in Great Britain and Ireland respectively. During the same period the payments of postal orders amounted to £37,212,000 and £1,646,000. No record is kept of the payment in Ireland of orders issued at post offices in Great Britain or *vice versa.*

Post Office Savings Bank Business in Ireland and Great Britain.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether he will state the total number of savings bank deposits and withdrawals in Ireland for the quarter ended 30th September, 1906; what percentage of these deposits and withdrawals was made through British deposit books; and what was the earliest date at which the Savings Bank Department was in possession of these figures.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) The Post Office Savings Bank deposits and withdrawals made in Ireland during the quarter ended 30th September, 1906, numbered 187,321 and 104,273 respectively. These figures were available on the 31st December last. To ascertain what percentage of these deposits and withdrawals was made through British deposit books would involve an expenditure which does not seem justified.

Promotion of Irish and English Postal Officials.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Postmaster-General whether Mr. Abbot, overseer, Aylesbury, has been appointed postmaster of the Curragh Camp; whether any of the applicants in Ireland for this postmastership were equally qualified to fill the position; how many Post Office officials in Ireland were promoted or transferred to postmasterships in Great Britain during the year 1906; and how many Post Office officials in Great Britain were promoted or transferred to postmasterships in Ireland during the same year.

(*Answered by Mr. Sydney Buxton.*) Yes; I appointed Mr. Abbot, overseer, Aylesbury, to be postmaster of Curragh Camp. I considered him the best qualified candidate, and I may state he had longer service than any of the qualified applicants from Ireland. During the year 1906, four Post Office officials in Ireland were promoted or transferred to postmasterships, or salaried sub-postmasterships, in Great Britain, and two Post Office officials in Great Britain were promoted to similar posts in Ireland.

The Exchequer and Audit Department.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether he will state the total number of each of the various ranks employed on clerical work in the Exchequer and Audit Department, and also the total number of each rank employed on local audit, outside the head office, at the various Government offices in London, Devonport, Portsmouth, Chatham, Woolwich, and Pretoria.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The following table gives the information for which the hon. Member asks as regards the permanent distribution of the staff; but I should observe that each year members of the staff are sent from headquarters to carry out local tests of various accounts in the different parts of the country, including, of course, Ireland.

Station.	Principal Clerks.	Senior Clerks.	Chief Examiners.	Examiners.	Abstractors.	Total.
Headquarters - -	3	9	9	56	9	86
,, Colonial Audit Branch -	1	1	2	14	—	18
London—Admiralty -	1	3	4	17	—	25
War Office - -	1	2	5	23	1	32
Post Office - -	—	1	2	9	—	12
South Kensington -	—	1	1	7	—	9
Dover House -	—	—	1	1	—	2
New Scotland Yard	—	—	—	2	—	2
Chatham - - -	—	—	1	4	—	5
Devonport - - -	—	—	1	4	—	5
Portsmouth - - -	—	—	1	5	—	6
Woolwich - - -	—	—	1	3	—	4
South Africa, Pretoria -	—	1	1	3	—	5
Totals - - -	6	18	29	148	10	211

Customs and Excise Revenue in Great Britain and Ireland.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury, whether he will grant a Return for the financial year ended 31st March, 1906, relating to each article on which Customs or Excise duty is payable, as the case may be, showing the net amount of Excise Revenue collected in Ireland in respect of each of such articles; the net amount of Customs duty collected in Ireland in respect of each of such articles; the net amount of Excise Revenue collected in Great Britain in respect of each of such articles imported into Ireland; the net amount of Customs duty collected in Great Britain in respect of each of such articles imported into Ireland; the net amount of Excise Revenue collected in Ireland in respect of each of such articles exported to Great Britain; and the net amount of Customs duty collected in Ireland in respect of each of such articles exported to Great Britain.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The subjoined Table gives the statistics relating to Excise for which the hon. Member asks. Figures are also given of the net amount of duty collected in Ireland on each article liable to Customs duty during the last financial year, but the further particulars as to Customs duties for which the hon. Member asks cannot be given in detail, as the movements between Great Britain and Ireland of goods, other than spirits, on which Customs duties have been paid are not recorded. The hon. Member will find, however, on page 12 of House of Commons Paper, No. 256, of 1906, the corrections applicable to the receipts in Ireland under the chief heads of Customs Revenue in order to arrive at the true Revenue contributed by Ireland. These corrections are based on the results of a special inquiry into the movements of duty-paid articles to and fro between the two countries in the year 1903–4.

Excise Revenue, 1905–6.

Statement showing :—

(1) The Net Amount of Excise Revenue collected in Ireland.

(2) The Net Amount of Excise Revenue collected in Great Britain in respect fo exciseable Articles imported into Ireland ; and

(3) The Net Amount of Excise Revenue collected in Ireland in respect of exciseable Articles exported to Great Britain.

Articles upon which Excise Duty is payable in Ireland.	Net Amount of Excise Revenue collected in Ireland upon each of the Articles in the previous column.	Net Amount of Excise Revenue collected in Great Britain in respect of each of such Articles imported into Ireland.	Net Amount of Excise Revenue collected in Ireland in respect of each of such Articles exported to Great Britain.	Remarks.
	£	£	£	
British spirits -	4,025,605	35,000*	2,072,000*	* Based upon the permit Returns of removals of duty-paid spirits.
Beer - -	1,265,220	53,000†	366,000†	† Based upon the statistics of transit of beer between Great Britain and Ireland in the year 1903–4.
Licences - -	214,247	—	—	
Home-grown tobacco -	736	—	—	
Coffee-mixture labels - -	2	—	—	
Warehouses, &c., charges -	60	—	—	
Total -	5,505,870	88,000	2,438,000	

A Statement of the Net Customs Revenue collected in Ireland on each article subject to Customs Duty in the year ended 31st March, 1906.

Articles.		Revenue (Net Receipt).
	£	£
Beer, Foreign :—		
Exchequer Revenue	2,970	
Local Taxation Revenue	96	
		3,066
Cards, playing	-	1
Chicory	-	1
Chocolate confectionery	-	1
Cocoa	-	1,445
Coffee	-	1,067
Fruit dried or preserved without sugar	-	8,854
Spirits Foreign and Colonial :—		
Exchequer Revenue	328,270	
Local Taxation Revenue	14,959	
		343,229
Sugar, including saccharine	-	209,709
Tea	-	380,591
Tobacco	-	1,497,971
Wine	-	75,507
Coal exported	-	34
Total net receipt		2,521,476
For the Exchequer		2,506,421
For the Local Taxation Accounts		15,055

Note.—In addition to the amounts shown above various sums, amounting to £2,007, had been deposited in anticipation of duty payments, but were not, on the 31st March, 1906, finally appropriated to any particular article.

Promotion of Abstractors (Assistant Clerks) to the Second Division.

Mr. FIELD: To ask the Secretary to the Treasury whether abstractors (assistant clerks), according to their conditions of service, may aspire to promotion to the Second Division; whether, in several Government Departments in which abstractors are employed, many of the meritorious amongst them have been promoted to the Second Division; and whether, seeing that there are abstractors but no Second Division clerks now employed in the Exchequer and Audit Department, what provision is made in that Department for the future promotion of any deserving abstractors serving in it.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) The Answers to one and two are in the affirmative. If the case for promoting an abstractor in the Audit Office should arise, and it cannot arise under the rules for several years to come, the fact that there are no Second Division clerkships on the establishment of that Department would not be an insuperable obstacle.

Grant for Building New School at Larne.

Mr. DILLON (Mayo, E.): To ask the Secretary to the Treasury why the grant for building a new parochial school at Larne, county Antrim, has not yet been issued; whether the first formal application was made in this case on the 18th February, 1905; whether the grant was made on the 4th September, 1906; and whether this does not come under the category of urgent cases, in view of the deplorable condition of the present school, and the fact that it has been repeatedly condemned by the inspectors of the National Board.

(*Answered by Mr. Runciman.*) I am not able to say when the first formal application was made in this case to the Commissioners of National Education, but the Board of Works inform me that they received it in April, 1905. The cause of delay in this case is that correspondence is proceeding with the Irish Government on the question of the number of children to be accommodated.

Children and Public-houses.

Mr. GEORGE WHITE (Norfolk, N.W.): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether, in view of the revelations recently made as to the prevalent evils which result from taking infants and young children to the public-house, he is prepared to introduce legislation dealing with this subject.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) The matter is receiving and will receive my very careful consideration, but at the present moment I am unable to make any statement as to legislation.

Death from Phosphorus Poisoning.

Sir CHARLES DILKE (Gloucestershire, Forest of Dean): To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that a further death from necrosis in the match trade is reported for January of this year; and whether, in view of the international interest taken in the question of phosphorus poisoning, he will issue to the House full details of this case, as was done by the then Secretary of State with regard to the cases occurring in 1905.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Gladstone.*) Yes, Sir. When I heard of this very regrettable occurrence I at once directed a visit to be paid to the factory by the chief inspector of factories and Mr. Cunynghame, one of my Assistant Under-Secretaries of State. They discovered no breach of the rules. The case was a very exceptional one, the deceased being a man with one leg, who had to work in a sitting posture and had also an inveterate habit of chewing tobacco. For both these reasons he was exposed to danger which his fellow workers escaped. He had, moreover, worked in yellow phosphorus for years before special rules were established, and had, it is known, long had the seeds of necrosis in his system. I shall propose an Amendment of the special rules to prohibit the chewing of tobacco. The Report made to me by Mr. Cunynghame and the chief inspector will be laid upon the Table of the House.

Crown Prosecutors and Jury Lists.

MR. FIELD: To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland, whether each Crown prosecutor in Ireland is periodically furnished by the proper authorities with a list of jurors in which he is officially concerned, whether the respective lists of jurors thus furnished are sent by the respective Crown prosecutors to the respective county inspectors of police in charge of the county, city, town, or district to which each of such lists relates; whether each county inspector of police sends his list of jurors, or part of such list, to each of his district inspectors in charge of the district to which each part of such list relates; whether each of these district inspectors of police sends the list with which he is thus furnished, or a certain portion of it, to each (or a certain) sergeant of police having charge of or connected with the locality to which each portion relates; whether the instructions relating to these lists direct the various sergeants of police entrusted with such work, to put a certain mark or other means of identification against the name of every juror known, discovered, or suspected to be a Nationalist irrespective of religious belief; whether such lists, thus prepared, are again returned to the various Crown prosecutors through the same official channels as they were forwarded; whether such lists, thus prepared, are used by the various Crown prosecutors when jurors are being challenged by them in prosecution cases; and, if so, whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

(*Answered by Mr. Cherry.*) My right hon. friend has asked me to answer this Question. Crown prosecutors are never furnished with lists of jurors, and it is no part of their duty to challenge or order jurors to stand by on behalf of the Crown. This duty is invariably discharged by the Crown solicitors. It is the duty of the Crown solicitor to procure, on every occasion upon which assizes and quarter sessions are held, a list of the jurors summoned by the sheriff, and to make inquiries relative to the persons summoned. No instructions are given as to the persons from whom inquiries should be made, and it is open to the Crown solicitor to inquire from the police as from any other persons. No instructions are given to put a mark opposite the names of persons known to be Nationalists; on the contrary, positive instructions are given to the Crown solicitors not to inquire into the religious or political opinions of any juror, and not to direct any juror to stand by on account of his religious or political opinions. Early last year I sent a circular to every Crown solicitor in Ireland impressing upon him the importance of strictly complying with this rule, and I am not aware of any case in which it has not been loyally obeyed by the Crown solicitors during the time I have been in office.

Untenanted Land in County Roscommon.

MR. HAYDEN (Roscommon, S.): To ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will state the amount of untenanted land purchased and still in the possession of the Congested Districts Board in the county Roscommon; when this land is likely to be distributed; and whether he can state the amount of such land, if any, in the possession of the Estates Commissioners, and the amount for which negotiations are proceeding by either the Board or the Commissioners.

(*Answered by Mr. Birrell.*) The Congested Districts Board have agreed to purchase 5,739 acres of untenanted land in county Roscommon, of which 2,362 acres have been vested in the Board. Arrangements for the disposal of the latter area are now in progress. No steps for the disposal of the remaining 3,377 acres can be taken until the property has been vested in the Board. Pending the Report of the Royal Commission on Congestion, the Board are not negotiating for further purchases. The Estates Commissioners have purchased 2,272 acres in Roscommon, of which 952 acres have been re-sold to tenant purchasers, and practically all the residue is being sold to evicted tenants and others who come within the terms of Section 2 (1) of the Act. The Commissioners have agreed to purchase 346 acres in addition, and negotiations for the purchase of 7,117 acres are in progress.

Pension of Honorary Major W. S. Parr Campbell, late Seaforth Highlanders.

MR. WATT (Glasgow, College): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War if his attention has been called to the case of Honorary Major W. S. Parr Campbell, retired pay list and late of the Seaforth Highlanders (an officer who rose from the ranks), who, although over 55 years of age in 1900 and therefore not liable to serve, volunteered his services during the war, sacrificing civil employment; if he is aware that this officer's pension was merged into the consolidated rate of pay (under Article 488a of the Royal Warrants, 1900) received for his volunteered service, if this deducted pension will be refunded to him, seeing he was beyond the age limit when the Government had any call on his services and is now in somewhat straitened circumstances owing to the impossibility of getting civil employment consequent on advanced age.

(*Answered by Mr. Secretary Haldane.*) My attention has been drawn to this case, which has been fully considered on many occasions. I regret that I cannot undertake to re-open it.

QUESTIONS IN THE HOUSE.

Patrol Ships.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty whether His Majesty's Government proposes to employ any warships, or vessels other than warships, to act as patrol ships in outlying stations of the Empire.

*THE SECRETARY TO THE ADMIRALTY (Mr. EDMUND ROBERTSON, Dundee): The Admiralty are of opinion that past experience shows that all wants of other departments have been adequately met, but they have expressed their desire to consider any proposals which may in the future be submitted to them by Departments interested in the questions concerned.

MR. ARTHUR LEE (Hampshire, Fareham) asked whether it was the intention of the Admiralty to employ any ships, other than warships, for the purpose of showing the flag in outlying portions of the British Empire?

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON said that the Departments referred to were the Colonial Office and Foreign Office, and that the Admiralty were of opinion that all their demands had been properly met.

MR. ARTHUR LEE: May I ask whether, if demands for this service are put forward, they will be met by ships of the Royal Navy, or by ships other than of the Royal Navy, merely showing the flag?

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: That is under consideration.

MR. REMNANT (Finsbury, Holborn) asked whether any proposals had been made to the Admiralty.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: Not that I am aware of.

The Channel Fleet.

MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty when it is anticipated that the new battleships, H.M.S. "Dominion," injured by grounding, and H.M.S. "Commonwealth," injured by collision, will be able to join the Channel Fleet; and what are the names of the battleships which are to replace them during the interval.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: In reply to the first part of the question, both ships will be ready about the middle of May. As regards the second part, they will be replaced in the meantime by "Mars" and "Hannibal."

Portsmouth Entrance Lock.

MR. PIKE PEASE (Darlington): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Admiralty if the entire sum voted for the new entrance lock at Portsmouth during the year 1906–7 will be expended during the present financial year.

*MR. EDMUND ROBERTSON: The sum of £10,000 provided in Vote 10 for 1906–7 was a token sum taken to obtain Parliamentary approval of the scheme. As all the alternative plans considered by the Admiralty were open to serious objection, the question has now been referred to outside consulting engineers, whose Report has not yet been received. Only a small part of the amount voted is likely to be expended during the current year.

X-Ray Tubes.

MR. WEIR (Ross and Cromarty): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether he is aware that the Army Medical Department and the entire medical profession in this country are mainly dependent on foreign manufacturers for the supply of tubes for X-ray examinations; and will he state what steps he proposes to take so that the United Kingdom may not be dependent on foreign countries for a supply in the event of war with a continental Power.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WAR (Mr. HALDANE, Haddington): The X-ray tubes required for military hospitals are purchased from contractors in this country who obtain many of their supplies from continental manufacturers. The few glass blowers in this country who make X-ray tubes are unable at the present time to produce tubes in sufficient number to meet the demand or to equal in quality and price those manufactured abroad. As these articles would be used for the relief of the wounded I do not anticipate that they would be considered as contrabrand in the event of a war with a continental Power.

Tidworth Camp.

CAPTAIN FABER (Hampshire, Andover): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War whether the General commanding the Southern Division has been asked his opinion concerning allowing buildings by private individuals at Tidworth on Government land; and, if so, what his opinion was.

MR. HALDANE: The question is one for the Army Council to decide, and the hon. Member may be sure that they will consult those who are in the best position to advise before arriving at a conclusion.

Army Reorganisation.

MR. LYELL (Dorset, E.) asked the Secretary of State for War a Question of which he had given private notice—namely, whether it was intended under the proposed scheme of Army organisation that no man should be entitled to discharge from the territorial force except by giving three months' notice and paying £5.

MR. HALDANE: No, Sir; the three months' notice and the £5 is only a general rule laid down in order to ensure some security to the State for the money expended in training and on equipment. The Bill contains a provision enabling the county association, in every case in which they have reason to think that the request is a fair one, to exempt the person concerned both from notice and from making any payment. Such a dispensation is obviously necessary in the case of the working classes, who move from place to place, and it is also useful in order that people, who when changing their place of vocation may have to go from one corps to another, may be able, in theological parlance, to "lift their lines."

*CAPTAIN FABER asked whether a man would be allowed to transfer from one Volunteer district to another under the three months rule.

MR. HALDANE: Obviously when a man changes from one place to another it may be necessary in the general interest that he should be transferred from one corps to another. The greatest elasticity is provided for that. The only reason for putting in the £5 provision was to fix a maximum sum towards covering the cost of equipment.

MR. ARNOLD-FORSTER (Croydon): Then do I understand that the terms of service in the new territorial army will be no more certain than the terms of service in the Volunteer force?

MR. HALDANE: The right hon. Gentleman must understand nothing of the kind. The rule is three months and £5, and whenever there is an arbitrary endeavour on the part of anybody to get out of his obligations, that will be adhered to. The dispensing power is only given to the association, and is only to be exercised in cases where they think that there is reasonable ground for making the dispensation.

MR. ARTHUR LEE: Will there be any legal means of recovering this money in case Volunteers should prove obdurate?

MR. HALDANE: Oh, yes. There will be very sharp legal means; but the hon. Member should wait until he sees the Bill, which I hope will be printed and before the House on Tuesday or Wednesday.

War Office Land at Bexhill.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for War what are the restrictions and conditions under which the Army Council are prepared to sell land at Bexhill to the corporation of that town; and whether such restrictions and conditions have yet been communicated to the borough council of Bexhill.

MR. HALDANE: The whole question is being considered by the War Department in conjunction with the Admiralty. I am not, therefore, in a position to give any information on the points raised in the Question.

Nepaul Outrage.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrews Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can give any information as to the circumstances under which Mr. Bloomfield, a British subject, was recently beaten to death by natives in Nepaul; and whether he proposes to take any action in the matter.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA (Mr. MORLEY, Montrose Burghs): I have no information beyond what has been published in the newspapers. The local authorities appear to be doing all that is possible to bring the guilty men to justice. No action on my part seems called for.

Native Demonstrations at Lahore.

MAJOR ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether his attention has been directed to the fact that a crowd of Indian natives, on Friday the 15th inst., paraded the streets of Lahore hooting every European they met; and whether, as this is a new departure since the days of the Mutiny, he intends to take any action in the matter.

MR. MORLEY: I have seen a report to the effect stated. It is a matter for the local authorities, and I do not propose to take any action.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) asked whether this incident was to be attributed to the general unrest in India.

MR. MORLEY: No, Sir. I do not believe it has the slightest connection with what the hon. Gentleman is pleased to call the general unrest in India, as to which I am rather sceptical.

Malwa Opium Duty.

SIR H. COTTON (Nottingham, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether, having regard to the fact that the duty on Malwa opium was increased from Rs.500 to Rs.600 a chest in 1904 on the ground that the price of Bengal opium had advanced to Rs.1,393 a chest, and to the fact that the average price of Bengal opium since 1904 has much exceeded that amount, he will consider the desirability of raising the Malwa rate to Rs.700 or at least to Rs.650, at which it stood a few years ago when prices averaged much lower than they do now.

MR. MORLEY: I have nothing to add to the Answer which I gave to the hon. Member's Question of 20th February on the same subject.†

Poppy Cultivation in India.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether he can give any indication of the amount of the reduction in the area of the cultivation of poppy which is likely to be effected next year.

MR. MORLEY: It has been decided to restrict the area next year to 562,500 acres. In the current year the area settled is 595,000 acres. For the five preceding years it averaged 605,000 acres.

Price of Bengal Opium.

SIR H. COTTON: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for India whether the average price per chest of Bengal opium at the Calcutta sales was Rs.1,461 in 1903–4, Rs.1,587 in 1904–5, and Rs. 1,434 in 1905–6; what was the average price during the first nine months of 1906–7; and what were the grounds of the estimate of the Government of India that the average price during the current year would be only Rs.1,125.

---

† See Col. 826–7.

Mr. MORLEY: The prices were as stated. For the first nine months of 1906–7 the average price has been Rs.1,382. The estimate for the current year was based on the fact that the March sales, which generally give a result in excess of the average for the ensuing year, only yielded Rs.1,258 the chest, and that for some months prices had declined.

Child Labour in the New Hebrides.

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether in the suggested negotiations with the Government of France relative to the New Hebrides, he will urge the importance of forbidding entirely the engagement of young children under any scheme of indentured labour, and, further, the raising of the minimum wage from 10s. to at least £1.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N.W.): I may perhaps be allowed to answer this Question: I have already had an opportunity of giving information to the House upon the two points raised by the honourable and gallant Member. With regard to the first, I may refer him to the Answer which I gave last Tuesday to the hon. Member for the Ludlow Division of Shropshire; † and with regard to the second, to my reply on Thursday to the hon. and gallant Member for St. Andrew's Burghs.‡

British Concession at Chinde.

*Mr. REES (Montgomery Boroughs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the question of providing accommodation for the British Concession at Chinde, in the place of that which has disappeaped owing to erosion, has been dealt with during the Recess; and, if not, whether he will urge the local administration to expedite proposals in order to meeting the wants of the merchants of Chinde, the Chamber of Commerce, Blantyre, and the general commercial community of British Central Africa.

Mr. CHURCHILL: His Majesty's Government have recently received an intimation from the Government of Portugal that they are prepared to grant an extension of the concession so much of which has been destroyed by erosion; the details of the matter have not, however, yet been adjusted with the Portuguese Government.

Colonial Conference.

Mr. BOTTOMLEY (Hackney, S.): I beg to ask the the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether at the forthcoming Colonial Conference His Majesty's Government, in considering the effect of such resolutions as may be passed, will have regard to the disproportion in the populations of the various Colonies; and whether, for instance, the same weight will be attached to the views of the delegates from Newfoundland, representing a population of less than 250,000, as to those of the delegates from Australasia, representing a population of over 5,000,000.

Mr. CHURCHILL: His Majesty's Government will give the fullest consideration to the views of all the Colonial Representatives.

Female and Child Labour in the New Hebrides.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY (St. Andrew's Burghs): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether it is the intention of His Majesty's Government that unprotected native women and children may be handed over, at the will of the chief of their tribe, for terms of three years, away from the protection of the British flag, to settlers many of whom are time-expired criminals from the penal settlements of France.

Mr. CHURCHILL: I am not quite clear whether the hon. Member refers to recruiting for service with French settlers in New Caledonia or in the New Hebrides; but in either case His Majesty's Government must repudiate the suggestion that the French Government, with whom the responsibility rests, will not make full arrangements for the protection of all natives employed by Frenchmen. The further imputation which appears to be contained in the hon. and gallant Member's Question that women and children may be engaged for service either with or without indentures by the will of their tribal chief irrespective of their own wishes is also of course totally without support or justification.

---

† See Col. 706–7.

‡ See Col. 1029–30.

SIR. GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) Is it the case that the British Government have no control over or responsibility for natives recruited for New Caledonia ?

MR. CHURCHILL: I must ask for notice of that Question, which is not only one of law, but also touches the domain of another Power.

Recruiting Licences for the New Hebrides.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies under what article and paragraph of the Convention with France with reference to the New Hebrides the High Commissioners have discretion as to the grant of recruiting licences in the case of applicants of doubtful character.

MR. CHURCHILL: The provisions will be found in Article XXXI., paragraphs (1) and (2).

British Indians in Natal, and the Franchise.

MR. DUNCAN SCHWANN (Cheshire, Hyde): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether, in view of the fact that the effect of the Municipal Corporations Act of Natal, now awaiting the sanction of His Majesty's Imperial Government, will be to deprive qualified free British Indians in that Colony of their present right to enrolment as burgesses and municipal voters, that the term "uncivilised races" in that Act will include even cultured sons of freed indentured labourers as well as such freed Indians themselves, and that its effect will be for ever to preclude their obtaining the municipal vote, the Secretary of State proposes to advise that sanction shall be withheld from this Act.

MR. CHURCHILL: As I explained in reply to Questions addressed to me on 19th and 20th February by the hon. Members for Hammersmith and the Montgomery Burghs,† the Secretary of State is in communication with the Natal Government. Meanwhile the Bill is not in operation.

Dinizulu.

MR. J. RAMSAY MACDONALD (Leicester): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether the Secretary for the Colonies has interfered in a legal action which Dinizulu is taking against his former private secretary, Mr. Daniels, in the course of which the statements made by the said Mr. Daniels, imputing disloyalty to Dinizulu, will be examined; whether the Secretary of State has made any communication to the Natal authorities of any kind regarding this trial, and, if so, under what statutory or other authority has the communication been made; and whether, if this communication has been made, it is proposed to lay it upon the Table of the House.

MR. CHURCHILL: No, Sir, the Secretary of State has not interfered.

Mr. Churchill and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether his speech of 18th December, 1906, cabled under the authority of the Secretary of State for publication in the Transvaal, contained the following passage concerning the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, "this body which has a tremendous and sinister influence over the local Press, and whose influence may sometimes be traced even in the columns of some of our leading newspapers, was given by the Chamber of Mines the power of turning off or on as a tap the supply of native labour"; whether the Secretary of State, in reference to this charge, had stated that he did not in any way impute malpractice to the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association; and what steps he has taken, or proposes to take, to withdraw charges to which currency has been given officially and at the public cost.

---

† See Col. 706, 828.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Such a passage occurs in the cabled report. Both the statements made by me in this House and by the Secretary of State in another place can only be judged in their general context. So studied, no contradiction or disagreement can, in my opinion, be inferred, and certainly, whatever may be inferred, none exists. I am much obliged to my noble friend for having defended my action in the House of Commons when that action was called in question in another place; and for myself, I can only say that after careful consideration of the remarks made by me upon the Chamber of Mines and the Witwatersrand Native Labour Association, and the influence exerted by these bodies in various directions, to which the right hon. Gentleman has drawn attention, I am of opinion that those remarks were well justified in fact and in the public interest at the time, and have not become either obsolete or inaccurate since.

Mr. LYTTELTON: May I ask whether the hon. Gentleman is not aware that a direct challenge was made to Lord Elgin to produce any evidence for the statements set out in this cabled speech; that no evidence was produced of these charges; and that Lord Elgin said that he did not impute in any way malpractices to the Native Labour Association; and, if so, how does the hon. Gentleman reconcile that statement of Lord Elgin's with his own?

Mr. CHURCHILL: I have answered the Question upon the Paper; and I will leave to the right hon. Gentleman the task of reconciling that Answer with any impression he may have derived of the actual fact or of any statement made in this place or another place at this time or any other time.

Transvaal—Repatriation Statistics.

Mr. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies how many coolies have been repatriated from the Transvaal, on the terms and under the conditions of the Repatriation Proclamation, since the date of its posting.

Mr. CHURCHILL: 766 coolies have been repatriated under the terms of the repatriation notice. Some twenty-two additional applications have been received, and are under consideration.

New Hebrides—House Accommodation for Labour.

Mr. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool): I beg to ask the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies whether any provision will be made under the New Hebrides Convention to ensure separate housing accommodation for unmarried men and women.

Mr. CHURCHILL: The High Commissioners and the resident Commissioners can provide for this and other similar matters under the powers vested in them by the Convention.

Sir GILBERT PARKER: Will the regulations governing these matters be laid on the Table.

Mr. CHURCHILL: Obviously they will have to be laid, and I had better defer answering these Questions until something definite has been done.

In reply to Lord Balcarres (Lancashire, Chorley).

Mr. CHURCHILL said the provisions of the Convention did not apply outside the area of jurisdiction.

Treaty with Sweden and Norway.

Mr. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any progress has been made in the negotiations between this country and other Powers with a view to substitute a new treaty for that of 1855 with reference to Sweden and Norway.

The SECRETARY of STATE for FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Sir Edward Grey, Northumberland, Berwick): I am not able to make any statement on this subject at the present moment.

Macedonian Refugees in Bulgaria.

Mr. ALDEN (Middlesex, Tottenham): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether a memorial has been received from the Macedonian refugees in Bulgaria with reference to the enforcement of Articles 23 and 62 of the Treaty of Berlin; and what action the Government proposes to take in the matter.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I am not quite sure to what the hon. Member's Question refers, but I am unable at present to make any statement as to what further reforms the Powers may agree to put forward.

Baghdad Railway.

MR. ASHLEY: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to what point the Baghdad Railway has now been completed; whether the work is still being carried on; and whether any kilometric guarantee for further extension has been given to the promoters by the Turkish Government.

SIR EDWARD GREY: The first section of the railway from Konia to Bulgurlu has been completed. With regard to the second and third paragraphs of the Question I have no information.

Cairo Electric and Gas Lighting Company.

MR. J. M. ROBERTSON (Northumberland, Tyneside): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether his attention has been called to the facts that the electric and gas lighting of Cairo is the monopoly of a single company; that the Cairo water supply and the Cairo tramways system are each of them likewise held as monopolies; that the electric light contract has been extended by the Government for a further term of twenty years, so that it will expire only in 1948; that the Government has further waived its rights in this case to re-purchase at the end of thirty years; that the gas contract will likewise not expire till 1948; that the monopoly of the Cairo tramways company has latterly been extended by the Government for a further term of five years, so that it will not expire till 1951; whether he can state the duration of the concession to the Cairo water company, and, as regards all four monopolies, the financial terms on which they are held; by whom, on behalf of the Government, were the concessions negotiated; and whether he will instruct the British agent at Cairo to advise the Egyptian Government against the creation of any further monopolies or the extension of those in existence, as being against the public interest.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I have no information on the subject of this Question. Similar arrangements exist in this country, and I am not prepared, nor indeed is it possible for me to interfere actively in such matters by sending special instructions to His Majesty's Consul-General in Egypt with regard to them, though the general question of preventing monopolies being created or extended against the public interest will not be lost sight of.

Congo Free State.

MR. ALDEN: I beg to ask the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether any Reports on matters connected with the Congo Free State have been received from Vice-Consuls Captain Mitchell and Mr. Armstrong; and, if so, whether he is in a position to present such Reports to the House.

SIR EDWARD GREY: I hope to lay Papers presently containing further Consular Reports.

The Budget.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, in view of the forthcoming Budget, he has yet considered the expediency of widening the range of taxation on luxuries, such as deer forests, salmon fishings, grouse moors, yachts, and motor-cars.

THE CHANCELLOR OF THE EXCHEQUER (Mr. ASQUITH, Fifeshire, E.): I gave my hon. friend a promise as long ago as last March that this suggestion would receive my serious consideration. I cannot add anything to that statement unless and until the time comes when I can lay specific proposals before the House.

Postal Employees and Income-Tax.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD (Liverpool, West Derby): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he is aware that the employees in the postal and postal telegraph departments are now being charged income-tax, not only upon their salaries, so far as they exceed the limit of exemption, but also upon all overtime gained by such employees when engaged upon emergency work; and whether he is willing to take any action in the matter.

MR. ASQUITH: Earnings on overtime are as much a part of income as regular salary, and I am not aware of any recent change of practice as regards the assessment of such earnings in the departments mentioned. They are made chargeable to income-tax by the first rule of Schedule E., Section 146 of the Act of 1842, and there is no reason in either law or practice for exempting them from assessment.

Civil Servants and Income-Tax.

MR. WILLIAM RUTHERFORD: I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether instructions have recently been given as regards pensioned civil servants whereby income-tax is deducted from their pensions in respect of the property tax upon any cottages or other property belonging to them; and whether this has the effect of preventing such civil servants obtaining relief in respect of any of such property which during the year may happen to be void.

MR. ASQUITH: I have made inquiries, but I have been unable to trace any action on the part of public departments that can have given rise to the impression on which the hon. Member's Question appears to be founded; but if he can give me a specific case, I will have it looked into.

Depreciation of British Securities.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the heavy fall in British local government stocks, British railway stocks, and British securities generally since the month of January, 1906, while Foreign and Colonial securities of a similar character have either maintained or increased their price; and what steps he proposes to take to remedy the position.

MR. ASQUITH: I am aware of the general fall in securities to which the right hon. and gallant Member draws attention. It appears to have affected many of the Foreign and Colonial securities as well as those of British domicile. I do not know that any general conclusion can be drawn from a comparison of Stock Exchange prices over a period of twelve months, in which, not only general causes, but also local and transient causes, have been variously at work. It should not, however, be forgotten that, during a period of active trade, when money is in great demand, the natural tendency is to depress the prices of securities which bear a fixed rate of interest, and that this effect is likely to be most felt by securities of the highest class, in which there is least of the speculative element.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY: May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether within his knowledge it would be a fair estimate to say that within the time mentioned the fall in British Government securities has not been less than £40,000,000 and in British railway securities not less than £100,000,000?

MR. ASQUITH: The right hon. and gallant Gentleman must give me notice of that Question.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London): May I ask the right hon. Gentleman whether he is aware that all American railway securities have during that time risen considerably?

MR. ASQUITH: The Stock Exchange prices will show that.

MR. MOORE (Armagh, N.): May I ask whether the right hon. Gentleman is aware that Bank of Ireland stock has now touched its lowest point since the introduction of the last Home Rule Bill?

*MR. SPEAKER: The right hon. Gentleman, not being a member of the Stock Exchange, can hardly be expected to answer that.

Dog Licence Exemption.

MR. MARNHAM (Surrey, Chertsey): I beg to ask Mr. Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his attention has been called to the fact that, on 13th February, 1907, the Chertsey bench of magistrates granted, as prescribed in Section 5 of the Dogs Act, 1906, eighty-eight certificates of exemption to owners of sheep dogs under Section 22 of the Customs and Inland Revenue Act, 1878, without having first had laid before them evidence of the genuineness of the grounds for such exemptions; and whether, in view of the statement of the local supervisor of Inland Revenue on the above occasion, to wit, that the authorities at Somerset House had instructed its officers to do nothing in these cases, and in view of the high percentage of exemptions in a part of the country where very few sheep or cattle are reared or fed, he will confer with the Secretary of State for the Home Department as to the desirability of the police being instructed in future to make full inquiry into each such application for exemption, and to report to the magistrates thereon before such certificates are granted.

MR. ASQUITH: The Act of last session prescribed the reference of exemption claims to petty sessions in the first instance, as an additional check, and it left unimpaired the discretion of the Board of Inland Revenue to refuse the exemption. I quite agree, however, that the additional check ought to be a real one, and I will consult the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the subject, as my hon. friend suggests.

Mine Inspectorships.

MR. SUMMERBELL (Sunderland): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he can see his way to introduce a change in regard to mines inspectorships, whereby all applicants having colliery managers' certificates may in future be allowed to sit for examination, and so allow the best men to come to the top, and thereby abolish the present method of selection and nomination by the Secretary of State.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE HOME DEPARTMENT (Mr. GLADSTONE, Leeds, W.): I do not think it would be at all advisable to adopt the hon. Member's suggestion. I protest strongly against the implication in the Question that the present system prevents the best men from coming to the top. In the appointment of inspectors of mines I attach great importance to practical experience, and other special qualifications, which cannot satisfactorily be tested by an open competitive examination. Under the present system anyone who chooses can apply for a nomination to compete. All such applications are most carefully scrutinised, and the best of the applicants personally interviewed before the nominations are made.

MR. SUMMERBELL: Is it a fact that the application forms supplied by the Home Office are of such a character that they cannot ascertain what ability is likely to be displayed by the applicants? I should like to know how without examinations the best men are to be got for the positions indicated in the Question.

MR. GLADSTONE: I am not quite sure on behalf of whom my hon. friend is speaking. I have had up to the present no representation on the subject from either representatives of the miners or mine owners. The question is one quite within the purview of the Royal Commission, and on which they can make any suggestion they like.

Public House Closing on Election Days.

MR. CHARLES ROBERTS (Lincoln): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if his attention has been drawn to the fact that the elections in the Transvaal were conducted with exceptional order and sobriety owing to Lord Milner's law forbidding the sale of liquor on election days; and whether he will bear this experience in mind in framing the forthcoming Licensing Bill.

MR. GLADSTONE: I have no information enabling me to draw an accurate comparison in the matter of order and sobriety between the recent Transvaal elections and other elections; and so far as I am aware of the provisions of the Transvaal law it does not seem to go as far as totally prohibiting the sale of liquor on election days. I can, however, say that the question of such prohibition will be considered in connection with licensing reform.

Sunday Trading.

MR. GULLAND (Dumfries Burghs): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he intends this session to introduce a measure dealing with the question of Sunday trading on the lines of the recommendations of the Joint Committee of last session.

MR. GLADSTONE: The matter is receiving my consideration, but I cannot give any promise as to legislation.

Fatalities in Carnarvonshire Slate Quarries.

MR. ELLIS DAVIES (Carnarvonshire, Eifion): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been called to the fact that there have been five fatal accidents in the slate quarries of North Carnarvonshire since the 1st January this year; and whether he will appoint a small committee to inquire as to the working of slate quarries, with a view to the amendment of the Quarries Act and the regulations made thereunder.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I regret to say that it is the case that there have been five fatal accidents in the Carnarvonshire slate quarries since the beginning of the year, four of them being due to falls of rock. During the whole of 1906, however, there was only one fatal accident in these quarries, and in each of the years previous to that only three. There seems no reason to suppose that the increase is other than temporary, but the inspector is making further inquiry. He thinks it may be partly attributable to the long and severe frost making the rock more dangerous. The whole question of the amendment of the Quarries Act and the special rules thereunder will be considered by me in connection with any legislation as to mines and quarries that may result from the inquiry by the Royal Commission now sitting.

Bacup Carter's Hours of Labour.

Mr. JOWETT (Bradford, W.): I beg to ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether his attention has been drawn to the facts made known during the prosecution, at Bacup, of a carter for being asleep while on duty, from which it appears that, after this carter had been on the road for twenty-four hours, he was called on, after being allowed only one and a half hours rest, to undertake another journey to Manchester; and whether, in view of the circumstances, he will take steps to put a stop to the practice of employers who make such demands on the physical endurance of their workpeople.

Mr. GLADSTONE: I have received a Report on the case from the police, from which it appears that statements to this effect were made by the defendant and his wife; and the Chief Constable says that the case is one of many that have come before the Justices in which the carters have according to their statements been employed continuously for an unreasonable number of hours, and in which the Justices considered the employer was more culpable than the servant. The matter is not one in which I have any power to take action under the existing law, but I will bear the point in mind in connection with any legislation to amend the Highways Act that may be contemplated in the future. In the meantime I hope the hon. Member's Question will have the effect of drawing the attention of employers to the matter.

Cost of the Poor Law Department of the Local Government Board.

Mr. PIKE PEASE: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board whether he can state what was the entire cost of the administration of the Poor Law Department of the Local Government Board from its inception in 1871 to the end of the financial year 1906.

The PRESIDENT of the LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (Mr. John Burns, Battersea): The Poor Law, which is only one of many subjects dealt with by the Local Government Board, is not wholly conducted by a separate staff of officers, and it is not possible to say how much of the cost of the Department is caused by this branch of their work.

London City Guardians and Destitute Children.

Mr. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the President of the Local Government Board, in regard to the case of a destitute child, named Michael Hayes, who was, on or about the 1st January 1907, brought before the magistrates at the Guildhall without shoes or stockings from the City Union, if he will say in what cases and at what dates did the City Guardians clothe children charged with offences and afterwards find that the parents had disposed of such clothing; whether he is aware that the chairman of the board of guardians stated in January last that the guardians were liable to be surcharged by the auditor of the Local Government Board for feeding these charge children; will he say whether they are liable to such surcharge; whether the auditor of the Local Government Board has threatened or would inflict a surcharge either for feeding or giving necessary clothing to such children; what is the cost of relief in this union per head of population; and whether it does not treat more than half its members by indoor relief.

MR. JOHN BURNS: I have been furnished with a list of the charged children during the latter part of the time in which the City of London Guardians provided clothing for such children. From this list it appears that between February, 1897, and February, 1899, seventeen children were charged. Each of these children was again charged between February, 1897, and March, 1899, five of them were charged a third time between June, 1898, and March, 1899, and one of them a fourth time in June, 1898. On each occasion, as I understand, the guardians provided clothing. I have no information as to the statement alleged to have been made by the chairman. I could not express an opinion as to the liability of the guardians to surcharge without knowing the precise circumstances of the particular case; but I understand from the auditor that he has not threatened surcharge in respect of the feeding or clothing of any children of the kind in question. The expenditure of the guardians of this union on purposes wholly connected with the relief of the poor was, in the year ended Lady Day, 1906 (excluding the cost of paupers maintained in the institutions of the Metropolitan Asylums Board and the contributions of the guardians to that body, and to the Metropolitan Common Poor Fund), £3 6s. 3d. per head of the night population of the union, which is co-extensive with the City, as estimated by the Registrar-General in 1905. The answer to the last part of the Question is in the affirmative.

Rona Light and Fog Signal.

MR. WEIR: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade if he will state whether the Northern Lighthouse Commissioners have yet decided to establish a light and fog signal on the Island of Rona, thirty-nine miles north-east of the Butt of Lewis.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE (Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE, Carnarvon Boroughs): I have communicated with the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses, who inform me that they adhere to the views expressed in my reply to a Question by my hon. friend on the 30th April last, viz., that they have not yet decided to propose the erection of a lighthouse and fog signal on North Rona, and that in view of the heavy cost which its establishment and maintenance would involve, and the more pressing claims of other schemes, it is unlikely that the erection of a station there will be proceeded with in the near future.

Automatic Railway Couplings.

MR. JOWETT: I beg to ask the President of the Board of Trade whether the Committee which is inquiring into the question of safety appliances on railways has had the subject of automatic couplings under consideration; and when it is likely to report.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I am informed that the time of the Committee has been fully occupied with the question of either side brakes and with experiments with appliances of this nature. They have at the same time taken steps with a view to ascertaining whether there is any need for automatic couplings in this country, and are collecting information as to the conditions with which automatic couplings should comply so as to be suitable for the rolling stock in the United Kingdom in case the necessity for their adoption should be established.

MR. JOWETT: Can the right hon. Gentleman give any indication when the Report may be expected?

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE: I understand it will take some time to carry out the experiments.

Stockport Messenger's Grievance.

MR. WARDLE (Stockport): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General if his attention has been called to the discharge of a messenger from the Stockport office named Charles Gorst on the ground that he was the son of a publican and lived on licensed premises; whether there is any regulation which forbids such employment; and, if so, will he consider the propriety of its withdrawal.

THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL (Mr. SYDNEY BUXTON, Tower Hamlets, Poplar): I am making inquiry on the subject and will communicate the result to the hon. Member.

Rex v. A. D. Turner.

MR. COURTHOPE (Sussex, Rye): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury why no payment has been made for travelling and other expenses incurred by the witnesses summoned by the Public Prosecutor in the case of Rex *v.* Andrew Dunn Turner, which was tried at Lewes Assizes, on the 22nd November, 1906; and whether he will direct payment to be made forthwith.

THE FINANCIAL SECRETARY TO THE TREASURY (Mr. RUNCIMAN, Dewsbury): The Director of Public Prosecutions informs me that these expenses should have been paid by his agent as soon as possible after the assizes. Owing to the delay of the agent in sending in his accounts the Director was unaware that the witnesses had not been paid, but if they or any of them had applied to him the matter would have had immediate attention. On seeing the Question of the hon. Member the Director wrote again to his agent pressing for the account, and has given directions for the immediate payment of the witnesses, which I understand has now been done.

Whitburn Beach.

MR. SUMMERBELL: I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury if he is aware that the Harton Coal Company have made no attempt to abate the nuisance of tipping slag, firebrick, and cinders on to the beach at Whitburn, near Sunderland, and that as a consequence this beach is being completely ruined as a pleasure resort; and, if so, whether he will at once take action in the matter with a view to its discontinuance.

MR. RUNCIMAN: I am informed that the Harton Coal Company have obtained possession of land which will be utilised as tipping ground, that they are now making the necessary arrangements to commence to utilise it, and that as soon as these are complete further tipping on the shore will be stopped.

Cost of North Sea Fisheries Investigation.

MR. CATHCART WASON (Orkney and Shetland): I beg to ask the Secretary to the Treasury what sums of money have been contributed by this and other nations respectively towards the international investigation of the North Sea; if he will state what practical good has resulted from the so-called investigations made up to now; and whether, in view of the fact that the coasts of Scotland are continually harried by trawlers, and that the fishermen receive no adequate protection, he will consider if the money spent on the Marine Biological Association could be better employed, so as to provide the Scottish Fishery Board with adequate funds to protect fishermen in pursuit of their calling.

MR. RUNCIMAN: For the information required in the first part of the Question I must refer my hon. friend to page 41 of Command Paper 2,966 of 1906. But I should point out that in addition each country has spent considerable sums on steamers and laboratories, etc., maintained in connection with the inquiry. As regards the remaining portions of the Question, I may observe that a Committee has been appointed to inquire into the whole subject.

Farsley District Councillor's Dismissal.

MR. JOWETT: I beg to ask Mr. Attorney-General if his attention has been called to the action of Mr. Edwin Woodhouse, managing director of the firm of E. Woodhouse and Company, Limited, manufacturers, a Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant in the West Riding of Yorkshire, in discharging one of his employees for offering himself as a candidate at the Farsley district council election, notwithstanding the fact that the employee in question has previously served on the said council without breaking any of his working time for the performance of his public duties; and whether he will take steps to put an end to the practice of employers who arrogate to themselves the right of determining what use their employees shall make of their time after working hours.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL (Sir JOHN WALTON, Leeds, S.): It is not alleged, I understand, that any breach of the law has been committed. The subject, therefore, will not go before the Director of Public Prosecutions. I see great difficulty in bringing in legislation on the lines suggested. I trust the Question will serve to draw attention to the fact.

North Sea Fisheries Investigation.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, in view of the fact that in the Report of the British delegates who attended the meeting of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea, held at Amsterdam in 1906, it is stated that His Majesty's Government do not intend to participate in the North Sea Fishery Investigations on the present footing after 22nd July, 1907, is he yet in a position to say whether the investigations by foreign Governments will also terminate on that date.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY (Somersetshire, S.): We are informed that it has been decided that this country should continue to participate in the investigations to which my hon. friend refers for another twelve months, *i.e.*, until July, 1908, on the same terms as before.

Mr. WEIR: Will the hon. Gentleman answer the latter part of my Question?

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY: That should be addressed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

Marking of Hop Pockets.

Mr. COURTHOPE: I beg to ask the hon. Member for South Somerset, as representing the President of the Board of Agriculture, whether the provisions of the Hop Trade Act, 1866, as to the marking of hop pockets and the mixing of hops, apply to imported hops, or to home-grown hops only; and, if the latter, whether he will take steps to place home growers on an equality with foreign growers in this respect.

Sir EDWARD STRACHEY: The provisions to which the hon. Member refers are not applicable to imported hops. The Select Committee on the hop industry which reported in 1890, expressed the opinion that the interests of English hop-growers would not be served by any alteration of the law in this respect, and although the matter has frequently been under consideration since that time, the Board have never seen any sufficient reason to dissent from the conclusion at which the Committee arrived.

Meals for Hungry School Children in Scotland.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether, in view of the fact that a Bill was passed last session providing meals for necessitous school children in England, he will state when he proposes to introduce a similar measure for Scotland.

Mr. HAROLD COX (Preston): Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that all the School Boards in Scotland excepting Glasgow and Aberdeen have protested against this proposal?

The SECRETARY for SCOTLAND (Mr. Sinclair, Forfarshire): There are some 900 parishes in Scotland and I do not think a large number of them have expressed any opinion. Proposals with this object in view will be included in the Education Bill for Scotland, which, as I have already stated in answer to the hon. Member for Kincardineshire, I hope to have an opportunity of introducing on an early date.

Scottish School Teachers' Pensions.

Mr. WEIR: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether any arrangements have yet been made for an improved scale of pensions for teachers in public schools in Scotland.

Mr. SINCLAIR: No, but proposals to this end are under consideration in connection with the Education Bill already referred to by me in previous answers.

Illegal Trawling in the Moray Firth.

Major ANSTRUTHER-GRAY: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he has received any information as to the number of trawlers that have been fishing in the proscribed waters of the Moray Firth since the three masters of the Grimsby trawlers, fishing under the Norwegian flag, were released without paying their fines; and what action he intends to take on behalf of the local fishermen in the event of the entire crew of the Grimsby trawlers being manned by foreigners.

Mr. SINCLAIR: Four foreign trawlers have been observed working in the Moray Firth by one of the superintending cruisers since 9th February—the date when the Norwegian trawl masters were released from prison. Several trawlers have also been reported by the Board's fishery officer at Lossiemouth as working off that place. As already stated, I intend to introduce a Bill extending to all British ports the prohibition against landing fish caught by the trawl in prohibited waters.

Kintail Poor Law Medical Officer.

Mr. CATHCART WASON: I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland if he is aware of the dismissal from office of Dr. George Duncan, the Poor Law medical officer of the parishes of Kintail, Glenshiel, and Lochalsh, after fifty years of public service; will he say if he failed or neglected or refused to perform the duties of his office, or if he was found unfit or incompetent to discharge them; have the Local Government Board made any inquiry into the case; and, if so, what reasons have been alleged by the parish councils for his dismissal.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I have to reply to the first part of the Question in the affirmative, but, as the hon. Member is aware, the Board have no power to interfere in the matter of dismissal of a parochial medical officer. Dr. Duncan, who is medical officer of the three very large parishes named, is of advanced years, and I understand that, as he has failed to implement an agreement made with him three years ago to appoint an assistant, he has been asked to resign as from 1st July next. I am not aware that unfitness or incompetency of any kind has been alleged.

Scottish Church Commission.

Mr. EUGENE WASON (Clackmannan and Kinross): I beg to ask the Secretary for Scotland whether he can give the House any information as to when the Church Commission will make its final Report; and what is the reason for the delay in having a final settlement as to the disputed property.

Mr. SINCLAIR: I have no official information, but on referring to the Chairman I am requested to point out that the Commission has not only to pronounce decree of allocation but has to adjust separate orders for the transfer of property in connection with every one of the eleven hundred congregations concerned as well as in regard to property held for foreign missions in various parts of the world, for colleges, and for other schemes of the Church. It has also been necessary to give much consideration to legacies which fall under the jurisdiction of the Church before formally allocating the capital funds. The task entrusted to the Commission involves manifold and complex difficulties and details which cannot be described in an Answer to a Question, and the Commissioners with every desire for an early settlement have felt it their duty to deal with them thoroughly and comprehensively.

Irish School Teachers' Character Certificates.

Mr. HALPIN (Clare, W.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that, in the quarterly returns of the Irish national schools, there is a query which requires the teachers to have their character certified every three months; and as this query has given rise to much dissatisfaction, will he request the Commissioners of National Education to eliminate it from the quarterly return.

The CHIEF SECRETARY for IRELAND (Mr. Birrell, Bristol, N.): The Commissioners of National Education inform me that it is the fact that managers are requested to state in the quarterly returns their opinion as to the teacher's character. The Commissioners have more than once had this query under consideration, but have not seen their way to abolish it. I will, however, commend the matter to their further consideration.

Irish School Teachers' Salaries.

Mr. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he will inquire why the salary warrants of the Irish national teachers, after being signed by the managers and certified for payment in the Education Office, are not forwarded direct to the teachers; and whether, in view of the inconvenience resulting in many cases from their not doing so, he would request the Commissioners of

National Education to send the warrants direct to the teachers in the future.

MR. BIRRELL: The Commissioners of National Education inform me that the grants towards the salaries of national school teachers are sent to the local managers, because they are the persons who are charged with the direct government of the schools and who appoint and remove the teachers. The Commissioners tell me that they do not consider it necessary or desirable to alter the existing arrangements.

MR. SLOAN (Belfast, S.): Are we to take it the managers are the paymasters of the school teachers?

MR. BIRRELL: It is assumed that they supplement the salaries of the teachers which are transmitted to them.

MR. SLOAN: Will the Commissioners issue a circular urging the managers to pay over the salaries as soon as received?

MR. BIRRELL: I have no control over the Commissioners, but I will communicate the hon. Member's suggestion to them.

Mountshannon Estate, Limerick.

MR. LUNDON (Limerick, E.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he can say how the Mountshannon estate, in county Limerick, stands at present; how soon it will be available for distribution; and have the names of Simon Ryan, of Cross Pallasgrean, James Conway, of Gurtavalla Doon, Hanora Lonergan, of Lower Toomaline Doon, and Ellen Rafferty, of Knockroe, Kilteely, who applied for farms on it instead of their evicted farms something about two years ago, been recognised as among those who are appointed to receive farms on this estate.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have agreed to purchase this estate, and expect to obtain possession next May. The scheme for the distribution of the farms has not yet been settled, and the Commissioners are therefore unable to say whether the persons named in the Question will be allotted farms. There is a large number of applicants.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): Will the evicted tenants get a share of the work which will have to be done?

MR. BIRRELL: I will inquire into that.

Adare Evicted Tenants.

MR. LUNDON: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland if he is aware that in the month of September last Thomas Drew, of Ardshanbally, Adare, county Limerick, was evicted from his holding by the Earl of Dunraven, of Adare Manor; that Thomas Drew and his wife, who is delicate in health, are living in an unsanitary cabin; and will he see that the Estates Commissioners send an inspector on the lands to report on Thomas Drew's case with a view to his restoration.

MR. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have received from Thomas Drew an application for reinstatement, and have referred the case to their inspector for investigation, but have not yet received his report. In the meantime the Commissioners have no knowledge of the facts.

Irish Relieving Officers.

MR. HALPIN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenent of Ireland whether a relieving officer of some years' standing and having a shop of which his wife has charge should be required by order of the Local Government Board to resign his position or give up his shop; and whether Article 20 of the Local Government Board refers to future and not to long-standing appointments.

MR. BIRRELL: Under Article 29 of the General Regulations of the Local Government Board, no person can be appointed to be a relieving officer who is engaged in retail trade of any kind. In the opinion of the Local Government Board, the same reasons which render this a disqualification for appointment require that any relieving officer who elects to engage in retail trade subsequent to his appointment should resign his position.

MR. WILLIAM REDMOND (Clare, E.): But why disqualify a man when he has nothing whatever to do with the shop?

Mr. BIRRELL: The difference between the man and his wife in a matter like this requires very careful investigation. I think the rule is a very desirable one.

Housing of the Working Classes in Ireland.

Mr. JOYCE: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether, in view of the discontent in Ireland, owing to the condition of the housing of the working classes, he will consider the advisability of introducing a measure for cheapening and facilitating the borrowing of loans in cities, towns, and urban districts, so as to enable the councils of such places to borrow money at the same rates as now obtain under the Agricultural Labourers (Ireland) Act of last year, and thus be enabled to proceed with this necessary work which under present conditions they are unable to do.

Mr. BIRRELL: I have nothing at present to add to the statement made by my predecessor last session, namely, that it is the intention of the Government, at a convenient opportunity, to consider whether any Amendment of the law relating to the housing of the working classes in the towns of Ireland may be necessary.

Mr. JOYCE: Did not a former Chief Secretary promise action in this matter?

Mr. BIRRELL: That may be. I am greatly embarrassed by the promises of my predecessors.

Out-Relief in Belfast.

Mr. SLOAN: I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that every three months the Belfast Board of Guardians are compelled by the Local Government Board regulation to post throughout the union district the names and addresses of each person receiving outdoor relief, including blind persons, for whom a capitation is granted; and whether, in view of the fact that the Belfast guardians have petitioned the Local Government Board to suspend such regulation, he will cause it to be withdrawn, so that the honest poor may not suffer under this stigma.

Mr. BIRRELL: The duty in question is imposed upon boards of guardians by Statute, and the Local Government Board have no dispensing power in the matter. The provision has this advantage: it enables the recipients of outdoor relief to ascertain the exact amounts which have been granted to them, and in this respect it has been found most useful and necessary.

Mr. SLOAN: Why does not the provision apply to every county in Ireland?

Mr. BIRRELL: I will inquire as to that.

Fairholme Estate, Cahir.

Mr. CULLINAN (Tipperary, S.): I beg to ask the Chief Secretary to the Lord-Lieutenant of Ireland whether he is aware that negotiations were in course of progress for the sale of Fairholme estate, at Outrath, near Cahir, county Tipperary, on which is an evicted holding which the Estates Commissioners are willing to buy and the agent, Mr. Hunt, is willing to sell; whether the sale has been blocked by Captain Bloomfield, New Park, Waterford, who since the passing of the Land Act of 1903 has taken this evicted farm and demands £700 compensation; whether Captain Bloomfield has grabbed several evicted farms under similar circumstances; and whether he will see that such attempts to defeat the objects of the Land Act will be effectively dealt with.

Mr. BIRRELL: The Estates Commissioners have no knowledge of any negotiations for the sale of this estate which may have taken place. They have received from an evicted tenant an application for reinstatement in his former holding now occupied by Captain Bloomfield, who asked £900 for his interest in the farm. As the evicted tenant holds a good farm elsewhere, the Commissioners decided to take no action on his application. The Commissioners are not aware whether Captain Bloomfield holds other evicted farms. The matter is entirely one for the decision of the Estates Commissioners.

Mr. CULLINAN: Is the right hon. Gentleman aware that since the passing of the last Land Act several parties have, like Captain Bloomfield, taken over evicted holdings and levied blackmail on the estate. Will he, in his promised legislation regarding evicted tenants, bear that fact in mind and have these gentlemen cleared out?

[No Answer was returned.]

American Mail Service—Sorting Arrangements.

CAPTAIN DONELAN (Cork, E.): I beg to ask the Postmaster-General whether he is aware that for some time past no sorters have been placed either upon the trains which convey the White Star American mails from Queenstown to Dublin or upon the Dublin and Holyhead steam packets, and that consequently large quantities of letters destined for various English centres frequently reach the London Post Office unsorted, thus entailing considerable delay in delivery and unfairly handicapping the Queenstown route; and whether arrangements will be made with a view to secure that all letters which may be landed at Queenstown unsorted shall be sorted before reaching London.

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Arrangements were made in 1905 for correspondence brought from America by the White Star Packets to be sorted at sea instead of after arrival at Queenstown. Considerable advantage as regards the amount of sorting done has been gained by the change; and indeed in ordinary circumstances the sorters on board the packets are usually able to complete their work. At specially busy times such as Christmas the correspondence is too heavy to be completely sorted in any travelling post office; but even at such times the present arrangement gives much better results than that previously in force.

CAPTAIN DONELAN: Then am I to understand it is not proposed to make any alteration in the present travelling mail service between Dublin and Queenstown? Will sorters still be carried on the train?

MR. SYDNEY BUXTON: Most of the sorting is now done on board ship and there is not therefore so much necessary to be done on the train. I do not understand there will be any alterations other than are due to that fact.

Manhood Suffrage.

MR. CHIOZZA MONEY (Paddington, N.): I beg to ask the Prime Minister if he can state the approximate number of men in the United Kingdom aged twenty-one years and upwards, also the number of men registered as Parliamentary electors; and whether he can promise early legislation to establish the principle of votes for men.

THE PRIME MINISTER AND FIRST LORD OF THE TREASURY (Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN, Stirling Burghs): I must refer my hon. friend to the last Census Returns for an Answer to the first part of his Question; the information he desires as to the number of registered Parliamentary electors will be found in a Return in continuation of Cd. Paper 2807, which will, I believe, be shortly issued. With regard to the final paragraph of his question, I am afraid I am not in a position to make any promise.

Procedure of the House.

MR. ELLIS (Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether he can see his way, without loss of time, to propose to the House the setting up of some machinery, of such a nature as to be satisfactory to the House, the operation of which will secure a reasonable and systematic allocation of time as between different classes of business and measures and different parts of the same measure, and avoid the necessity of harsh and summary applications of what has become known as the guillotine closure.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: I think, as I have often said before, that this would be a most desirable object; and I shall be glad if time can be found to introduce regulations to give effect to it.

Wreck of the "Berlin."

MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury): I beg to ask the Prime Minister whether His Majesty's Government propose to take any steps to give public expression to the warm feeling of gratitude felt by the British people towards the Prince Consort of the Netherlands and the Dutch lifeboat men for their heroic and successful attempts to save the lives of the survivors from the wreck of the Berlin.

SIR H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN: Perhaps my best course will be to read to the House a telegram sent yesterday by the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to the British Minister at the Hague. "I request you to convey to H.R.H. the Prince Consort and to the Dutch lifeboat crews on behalf of His Majesty's Government our warm appreciation of their gallant and heroic conduct in rescuing the survivors of the shipwreck at the Hook of Holland and our deep gratitude for the splendid and effective help given to those in distress. You should supply me with a list of the lifeboat crews to whom we should like to give suitable rewards for their courageous service." I would add that His Majesty the King, with the keen appreciation which he always exhibits of gallant actions, especially in relief of distress, yesterday communicated to the Prince Consort of the Netherlands his desire to confer upon him the Grand Cross of the Bath, and his Royal Highness has accepted the Honour. I am sure that the House will be glad that such speedy recognition has been made of the conspicuous gallantry and devotion shown in the efforts to mitigate this deplorable catastrophe.

MR. JOYCE (Limerick): Don't forget Sperling.

SELECTION (STANDING COMMITTEES).

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON reported from the Committee of Selection:—That they had added to the Standing Committee on Law, and Courts of Justice, and Legal Procedure, the following Fifteen Members, in respect of the Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill: Lord Edmund Talbot, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Talbot, Mr. Laurence Hardy, Sir John Kennaway, Sir William Brampton Gurdon, Mr. Arthur Henderson, Sir Gilbert Parker, Sir Lewis M'Iver. Mr. Hambro, Mr. Barker, Mr. Jesse Collings, Sir Andrew Torrance, Mr. Tomkinson, and Mr. Acland.

Sir WILLIAM BRAMPTON GURDON further reported from the Committee:—That they had selected the following Seven Members to be the Panel to serve on Unopposed Bill Committees under Standing Order No. 109: Sir David Brynmor Jones, Mr. Paulton, Lord Robert Cecil, Mr. Crombie, Mr. Beale, Mr. Hills, and Mr. Mooney.

Reports to lie upon the Table.

NEW BILLS.

LEASEHOLD ENFRANCHISEMENT BILL.

"To provide for the Enfranchisement of Leaseholds," presented by Mr. Maclean; supported by Mr. Evans, Mr. Ellis Griffith, Mr. Rowlands, Mr. Gooch, Mr. William Abraham (Rhondda), Mr. Simon, Mr. Hay Morgan, Mr. Brace, and Mr. Jenkins; to be read a second time upon Tuesday 12th March, and to be printed. [Bill 65.]

PUBLIC HEALTH BILL.

"To amend the Public Health Acts," presented by Mr. John William Wilson; supported by Mr. Harmood-Banner, Mr. Samuel Roberts, Mr Arthur Henderson, Mr. Staveley-Hill, and Mr. Whitley; to be read a second time upon Monday 18th March, and to be printed. [Bill 66.]

PEDLARS ACTS AMENDMENT BILL.

"To amend the Pedlars Acts as regards persons for whom certificates shall not be required," presented by Mr. Stopford Brooke; supported by Mr. Charles Duncan, Mr. Gibbs, Sir George Kekewich, Mr. Walter Long, and Mr. William Redmond; to be read a second time upon Wednesday, 27th March, and to be printed. [Bill 67.]

PRISONS (IRELAND) BILL.

"To enable portion of a term of imprisonment in Ireland to be remitted as a reward for good conduct," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 68.]

IRISH LAND (No. 2) BILL.

"To make provision with respect to the disposal of mining rights under Section 13 of the Irish Land Act, 1903, and to amend Section 54 of that Act," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 69.]

LOCAL REGISTRATION OF TITLE (IRELAND) BILL.

"To make provision with respect to the application of the Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Act, 1891, to the county of Cork," presented by Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland; supported by Mr. Birrell; to be read a second time To-morrow, and to be printed. [Bill 70.]

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES, ETC., BILL.

"To amend the Law relating to the Housing of the Working Classes, to amend the Law of Rating, and to establish Fair Rent Courts," presented by Mr. Bowerman; to be read a second time upon Monday 18th March, and to be printed. [Bill 71.]

DOGS (PROTECTION) BILL.

"To prohibit experiments upon Dogs," presented by Mr. Ellis Griffith; supported by Sir Francis Channing, Sir Frederick Banbury, Colonel Lockwood, Colonel Sandys, Mr. Field, Mr. Tomkinson, Mr. Weir, Mr. Sloan, Mr. Crooks, Mr. Clement Edwards, and Mr. MacNeill; to be read a second time upon Tuesday, 12th March, and to be printed. [Bill 72.]

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION (Mr. McKENNA, Monmouthshire, N.): The Bill which I ask leave to introduce is a one-clause measure designed for the purpose of transferring from the local education authority to the managers the cost of giving denominational instruction in non-provided schools. In principle the Bill will confirm the judgment of the Court of Appeal in the West Riding case. There is, however, one point of distinction between the present proposal and what would have been the law if the judgment of the Court of Appeal had not been reversed. It is proposed now to determine the cost of giving denominational instruction as a definite fraction of the salary of any teacher who gives religious instruction in a school other than that which is authorised under the Cowper-Temple clause of the Act of 1870. The fraction which I have taken—namely, one-fifteenth of the teacher's salary—is the nearest calculation I can make of what is the actual cost of giving such instruction in any local authority's area. I readily admit that this fraction will not necessarily meet the cost of giving such instruction in any particular school, and it is impossible that any definite fraction which I could name could meet that cost. I have taken the charge over the whole rating area because by doing so I shall be able at once to get rid of one of the glaring defects of the present law; and at the same time I shall be able to meet the particular difficulty of those who feel themselves prevented by their consciences from paying rates in support of denominational instruction of which they disapprove. The reason why I have taken the method of reckoning over the whole area instead of reckoning the charge for each particular school is to avoid the possibility of disputes. It is an unfortunate fact that the relations between the local authorities and the managers of non-provided schools are not always of the most friendly kind; and it might happen if it were left to them to make an agreement as to the amount in each school, that no agreement might be made, or that an agreement might be come to which would be oppressive to the managers. On the other hand, where the local authorities are on too good terms with the managers of non-provided schools, they might make arrangements which would be unfair to the ratepayers. Provided the House is satisfied that no charge will fall upon the rates of any area for which the rate is levied, I think it will be held that the Bill suffices to meet the particular difficulty which we have before us. It must not be supposed that this measure is intended in any sense to be a setttement of the education question. After the experience of my right hon. friend the Chief Secretary, who in his comprehensive and generous measure of last session went to the extreme limit of concession, it is obvious that no legislative settlement can be obtained until the relations between this House and another place have been readjusted. Though the Government may not feel it to be in their immediate power to establish the educational system of this country on the basis of full popular control and the complete abolition of religious tests on the appointment of teachers, we adhere firmly to those principles; and we do not relinquish them an iota because we seek by this small measure to remove one particular evil which is offensive to the consciences of a large number of our fellow-citizens. This Bill supplies the remedy for one evil only. It takes back from the managers of non-provided schools but a small portion of the public money which was placed at their disposal by the Act of 1902. In respect of denominational instruction, and in that respect only, it restores the law to the condition in which it stood thirty-two years after the Act of 1870 was passed. Whatever else may be said of this Bill, it cannot be alleged that it opens any new principle. I am unwilling to enter into any controversial matter, but I am bound to refer to one statement which has been made very strongly in anticipation of this Bill. It has been said we are proposing to leave the Nonconformist religion on the rates while all other religion is to be paid for privately. Nothing I can say, I am afraid, would disabuse the minds of those who are responsible for that absurdity. Nonconformists, after all, must be the best judges of what is the religion of their own denomination, and I know of no Nonconformist who would admit that Cowper-Temple instruction covered the doctrines of his particular faith. I have observed that none but Churchmen, who are not experts in the Nonconformist faith, have ever committed themselves to the statement that Wesleyans, Baptists, Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Calvinistic Methodists—to name only a few of the Nonconformist denominations—are all included in the comprehensive name of Mr. Cowper-Temple, who, as a matter of fact, was a Churchman. If it be a fact that Cowper-Temple instruction is Nonconformist religion, it is surely strange that Nonconformists should not insist, as Churchmen do, upon the teachers who give that instruction being appointed by themselves. I should be ready to admit that there might be something in this trumped-up grievance if we found that all the teachers appointed in the council schools were appointed by Nonconformists from among Nonconformists. There remains but one other small matter for me to mention, and that is as to the method by which the one-fifteenth of the teacher's salary is to be paid. In every case the full salary will be paid to the teacher, and the one-fifteenth will be compulsorily recovered from the managers. The managers will not be personally liable to pay this one-fifteenth, but if they fail to do so the non-provided school in question will no longer be maintained as a public elementary school. I think, Sir, I have covered all the points in this one-clause Bill, and it remains only for me to ask the leave of the House to introduce it.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That leave be given to bring in a Bill to make provision for relieving the local education authority of the cost of giving Special Religious Instruction in schools not provided by the authority."—(*Mr. McKenna.*)

MR. A. J. BALFOUR (City of London): The custom in this House has invariably been, when a Minister takes advantage of the ten minutes rule to introduce a measure, that his speech, necessarily brief, should be as uncontroversial as possible and that he should reserve any remarks of an embittered character until a later stage of the measure. Although the right hon. Gentleman has not thought fit on the present occasion to follow that very salutary precedent, I certainly do not rise for the purpose of suggesting to any hon. friends of mine that they should divide against the first reading of the Bill. I do not think the practice of dividing against the first reading of a Bill should be encouraged; it has fallen almost into desuetude, and I certainly do not wish to see it revived. But I must make one or two observations upon the speech to which we have just listened. The purpose of the right hon. Gentleman is one with which, I conceive, every Member of this House will sympathise. I understand that the avowed object of the Bill is to relieve the consciences of a certain number of our fellow-citizens. That is an excellent object, and so far I have nothing but sympathy for the right hon. Gentleman. But I have two observations to make on this matter of conscience. One is, is he quite sure that he will relieve the consciences of the Nonconformists, in whose behalf avowedly this Bill has been framed? I, at all events, have read a speech of Mr. Hirst Hollowell [MINISTERIAL cries of "Oh!"]—at all events, he has a conscience, and I suppose if we can relieve his conscience we shall desire to relieve it. He laid it down in the most explicit manner possible that a measure of the precise character of the Bill proposed by the right hon. Gentleman will not satisfy his conscience, and he will be obliged to continue the attitude of passive resistance. Therefore, I conceive that there may be some Nonconformists—I hope they are few—who, even if this Bill passes in the shape in which it has been introduced, will not have their consciences relieved by it. And is the right hon. Gentleman quite sure that he will not bring into existence another set of passive resisters—people who also have consciences and who do not take his view of the relation of Cowper-Temple teaching to the religion in which they believe? The right hon. Gentleman has gone out of his way to exclaim in rather strong language how utterly foolish and wrong-headed is the action of those who declare that Cowper-Temple teaching is the Nonconformist religion and how wrong it is to suggest that the Nonconformist religion is supported out of the rates while no other religion is so supported. The right hon. Gentleman has wholly mistaken the attitude of those who may possibly—I hope they will not—become passive resisters on the other side. It is not that they confuse the miscellaneous forms of religious teaching embraced under the name of Cowper-Temple. They do not confuse any of those forms with the name of Presbyterian, or Baptist, or Wesleyan, or any other Nonconformist sect. What they say is this, "Out of the rates you pay for the religious teaching of the Nonconformist in the shape which he likes, and you compel us to pay for religious teaching in the form we like." That cannot be denied. Nobody says that Cowper-Temple teaching is bad teaching, or that Wesleyan teaching is bad teaching. What they have said is that out of the rates, under the system proposed by the right hon. Gentleman, the ratepayer, be he Roman Catholic, or belonging to the English Church, or belonging to no Church, is obliged to pay for the kind of religious teaching which he does not want for his children, but which other people want for their children. All that those who differ from that desire is that there should be equity as between all parents and children. The right hon. Gentleman is well aware that the Archbishop of Canterbury and many other people have done their very best to prevent anything in the nature of passive resistance arising on the other side from that which now exercises passive resistance. But if I rightly understand this Bill the ratepayer of this country who happens to be a Roman Catholic or happens to belong to the Church of England, will have not only to pay rates for the form of education that satisfies some other parent and does not satisfy him, but he will have to pay twice over for the religion that does satisfy him. Under the Bill of last year the Government suggested that every denomination should pay for its own denominational teaching, but they took the cost of the repairs of the schools off the denomination. I have always held, as the House is aware, that at this moment neither Roman Catholics, nor the Church of England, nor the Wesleyans, do put the cost of the religious teaching that they like upon the rates. The buildings that they give over to the public for the purpose of carrying on elementary education pay over and over again for the cost of their denominational teaching. You now propose to take their buildings for nothing and throw the whole cost of the repair of those buildings on them, and in addition make them pay, first, rates for religious teaching which they do not want to give their children, and then twice over for religious teaching which they are asking that their children should receive. I am afraid I do not see that we are going to have religious peace from this proposal. For my own part, so anxious am I—though I do always get credit for it—to see religious peace introduced into the great area of educational controversy that there are many sacrifices which I would gladly see denominationalists submit to if only peace could be obtained. But I must frankly say that neither in the tone of the speech which we have just heard nor in the specific provisions of the Bill which we have just had foreshadowed do I see that the peace which is desired by most of us, and which ought to be desired by all, is likely to be brought much nearer.

Question put.

The House divided:—Ayes, 264; Noes, 109. (Division List No. 21.)

AYES.

Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Ashton, Thomas Gair
Asquith, Rt. Hn. Herb. Henry
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Beale, W. P.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets, S.Geo.
Bethell, T. R. (Essex, Maldon)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs, Leigh
Brunner, Rt.Hn.SirJT(Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Burns, Rt. Hon. John
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Chas.
Byles, William Pollard
Cameron, Robert
Campbell-Bannerman, Sir H.
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard K.
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Channing, Sir Francis Allston
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hn. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Cooper, G. J.
Corbett, CH(SussexE.Grinst'd)
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Dalmeny, Lord
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, M. Vaughan- (Cardigan
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Duckworth, James
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Ellis, Rt. Hn. John Edward
Erskine, David C.
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gurdon, Sir W. Brampton
Haldane, Rt. Hn. Richard B.
Hall, Frederick
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hodge, John
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hyde, Clarendon
Idris, T. H. W.
Jacoby, Sir James Alfred
Jardine, Sir J.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Kitson, Rt. Hn. Sir James
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, EdmundG. (Leominster)
Lambert, George
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hn. David
Lough, Thomas
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J M(FalkirkBurghs
Mackarness, Frederic C.
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marnham, F. J.
Massie, J.
Menzies, Walter
Molteno, Percy Alport
Money, L. G. Chiozza
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Myer, Horatio
Nicholls, George
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Perks, Robert William
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Price, Robert John (Norfolk, E.
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E
Pullar, Sir Robert
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monmth
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Rickett, J. Compton
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Rt. Hn. E. (Dundee
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Roe, Sir Thomas
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day

Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Seaverns, J. H.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Snowden, S.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stanley, Hn. A. Lyulph (Chesh.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, Sir Ed. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Abel (Carmarthen, E.
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomasson, Franklin
Thorne, William
Tomkinson, James
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Ward, J. (Stoke upon Trent)
Ward, W. Dudley(Southamptn
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, George (Norfolk)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Williams, Osmond (Merioneth)
Williamson, A.
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Winfrey, R.
Yoxall, James Henry

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Abraham, Wm. (Cork, N.E.)
Acland-Hood, RtHnSir Alex.F.
Ambrose, Robert
Anstruther-Gray, Major
Arkwright, John Stanhope
Ashley, W. W.
Balcarres, Lord
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh H.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Boland, John
Bottomley, Horatio
Bowles, G. Stewart
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Bull, Sir William James
Burke, E. Haviland-
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, R.)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Cullinan, J.
Dalrymple, Viscount
Delany, William
Dillon, John
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred D.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Du Cros, Harvey
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Faber, Capt. W. V. (Hants. W.)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fell, Arthur
Ffrench, Peter
Finch, Rt. Hn. George H.
Fletcher, J. S.
Flynn, James Christopher
Gardner, Ernest (Berks, East)
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Ginnell, L.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Halpin, J.
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hayden, John Patrick
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F.W.F. (BurySEdmds
Hills, J. W.
Hogan, Michael
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Joyce, Michael
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col W
Kilbride, Denis
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lockwood, Rt. HnLt-ColA.R.
Long, Col. Chas. W. (Evesham)
Lowe, Sir Francis William
Lundon, W.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
Magnus, Sir Philip
Marks, H. H. (Kent)
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meagher, Michael
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton.
Murphy, John
Nolan, Joseph
Brien, K. (Tipperary, Mid.)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, J. (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, Sir G. (Gravesend)
Power, Patrick Joseph
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John FrederickPeel
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Redmond, William (Clare)
Remnant, Jas. Farquharson
Rothschild, Hn. Lionel Walter
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Staveley-Hill, Henry (Staff'sh.
Sullivan, Donal
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt.Hn.JG(Oxfd Univ.)
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, Col. W.H.(Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Williams, Col. R. (Dorset, W.)
Wolff, Gustav Wilhelm
Wortley, Rt. Hn. C. B. Stuart-
Young, Samuel
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Mr. Patrick O'Brien and Mr. Mooney.

Bill ordered to be brought in by Mr. McKenna, Mr. Burns, and Mr. Lough.

EDUCATION (SPECIAL RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION) BILL.

"To make provision for relieving the local education authority of the cost of giving Special Religious Instruction in schools not provided by the authority," presented accordingly, and read the first time; to be read a second time upon Monday next, and to be printed. [Bill 73.]

SUPPLY.

Considered in Committee.

(In the Committee.)

[Mr. Emmott (Oldham) in the Chair.]

CIVIL SERVICES (SUPPLEMENTARY) ESTIMATES, 1906–7.

Class V.

1. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £32,470, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for sundry Colonial Services, including certain Grants in Aid."

Captain CRAIG (Down, E.) said that the first objection he took to this Vote was the grouping together of the four items of which it consisted. He did not raise any objection to the subsidy for steamers to the West India Islands, because he remembered the history of that subsidy; but he intended to move the reduction of the total Vote by £1,000 on account of the item "Transvaal, Repatriation of Chinese Coolies." If this sum of £22,000 in the revised Estimates was the whole sum of money necessary to repatriate all the Chinese coolies in the Transvaal who were desirous of returning home, in accordance with the design of the Government, his objection would not be so great as it was at the present time. The Explanatory Note in regard to this item was that it was in accordance with the undertaking given by the Government. He had taken the trouble to search for these undertakings, which he supposed were embodied in a great number of speeches delivered in this House and in Ordinances. Last session the hon. Gentleman in charge of the Estimates said that the particular reason why the Government intended to give the undertakings was that, as he called it—

> "the hideous Chinese monstrosity must be got rid of,"

and the hon. Gentleman added that—

> "No doubt a short notice would be required in order to make sure that the labourer is sincere in his desire to return home; but if a Chinaman expressed a desire to return home for any good reason, or without giving any reason at all, then his right to repatriation would be sustained by the Crown and the funds necessary for that return would be provided by the British Exchequer."

If this sum of £22,000 had been expended in repatriating Chinese coolies, he hoped that the hon. Gentleman would be able to give the Committee some statistics showing whether those Chinamen who had been repatriated had been repatriated without their giving any explanation at all. From time to time he had addressed questions to the hon. Gentleman regarding that particular point and had received very unsatisfactory answers. He asked, on 30th May last, whether a bare demand for immediate repatriation on the ground that the conditions of his indentured labour were slavery or tantamount to slavery—using the hon. Gentleman's own words earlier in the session—justified the expenditure of the money now asked for.

The UNDER-SECRETARY of STATE for the COLONIES (Mr. Churchill, Manchester, N. W.): Those were not my words.

Captain CRAIG: That is perhaps a "terminological inexactitude" on my part.

Mr. CHURCHILL: No, it is not an error of terminology, but of substance.

Captain CRAIG said he would leave the Committee to judge of that. The hon. Gentleman in answer to the question which he had just quoted said, as he understood, that a bare statement of that kind would not be deemed conclusive in itself. He took it from the hon. Gentleman that a Chinese coolie could, without giving any reasons whatever, be repatriated. If, when a Chinese coolie came to an inspector and said that he considered the conditions of labour were slavery or tantamount to slavery, the hon. Gentleman said that that was not sufficient to secure repatriation, then some explanation was required to reconcile two statements so diametrically opposed. This £22,000 was admittedly, for such a gigantic proceeding as the repatriation of all the Chinese in the

Transvaal, a small sum; but the smallness of the sum condemned the attitude which the Government took in the first instance, because their desire, as voiced by the hon. Gentleman, was that the whole system of Chinese labour in the Transvaal should be put a stop to and that the Chinese should be convinced that they would be repatriated. Had the expenditure of this £22,000 had the effect of putting an end to this "hideous Chinese monstrosity?" Had the hon. Gentleman's wordy promises of last session been fulfilled? How could they be fulfilled at a cost of a mere £22,000? It should be borne in mind that, according to the Ordinance approved of by the late Government and modified by the present Government, repatriation was only to be made at the expense of the employers if the Chinese coolies were badly behaved and unsuitable for work in the mines; and so there would be two classes of Chinese coolies—those who would be repatriated in the ordinary way by the mineowners for faults or bad behaviour and those who were to be repatriated at the expense of the British Government. That was where the hon. Gentleman owed a full explanation to the Committee. They were all aware of the gradually growing feeling in the House and in the country because, after all their endeavours to stamp out this kind of work, the Government only moved to devote £22,000 to that purpose. Passing on to the question of the flax industry in St. Helena, he thought some explanation ought to be given of the £4,070 devoted to that purpose. He had no desire to interfere in any way with the prosperity of St. Helena or to cast any aspersions upon the authorities of that island. This large sum of money appeared, however, for the first time on the Estimates, and it was therefore due to the Committee that some explanation should be made, particularly when it was only the beginning of a scheme which would be carried further. It would be necessary to know whether the scheme had been so far successful that a sum of money had been sunk in the industry and whether it was likely to prove remunerative, and whether this new or revived industry was confined to the island itself or whether there was an export trade. It was further important to know whether, in the event of the scheme being a thorough success, the Government intended to go on with it any further. He moved to reduce the Vote by £1,000.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £31,470, be granted for the said Service."—(*Captain Craig.*)

*MR. MACKARNESS (Berkshire, Newbury) did not quite understand on what ground the hon. Member was opposing this Vote. If the only ground was that it was not a large enough sum for the purpose in hand, he would have a good deal of sympathy from Ministerialists; but he did not understand whether hon. Members opposite adhered to their position in support of Chinese labour after all that had occurred. He thought it was important, however, that the Committee and the country should understand from the right hon. Gentleman the Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, what the position of the Tory Party was on this subject to-day.

THE CHAIRMAN said that if the hon. Member introduced that subject he might be replied to later on, and he would point out that at present they were only dealing with the subject of repatriation.

*MR. MACKARNESS said he did not wish to allude to any other aspect of the Chinese question than repatriation, but he would like to know from some authoritative Member of the Party opposite on what ground they opposed the Vote, if they did oppose it at all. For his own part, and he thought he spoke for a considerable number of his hon. friends on that side of the House, it certainly could not be conceived that they regarded the Vote with any great enthusiasm, because it did not go the length they would like to go. The hon. Member had referred to the words used by the Under-Secretary of State as to the meaning of the word "repatriation" last session. They were to the effect that "if a Chinaman expressed a desire to return from any good reason or even if he gave no reason at all, his right to do so would be assisted by the forces of the Crown and the funds to enable him to return to his country would be found by the British Exchequer." That seemed to him a very clear policy indeed, but that was not the policy of the proclamation which the Government ordered to be posted in the compounds of the Transvaal, giving notice that Chinamen would be repatriated only on certain conditions. Those conditions, moreover, were of a much more rigid character than would have been expected from the statement of his hon. friend. He would just read those conditions which were published in his recent annual Report by Mr. J. W Jamieson, the Superintendent of Foreign Labour in the Transvaal, who was responsible for dealing with all questions affecting that labour, also for the proclamation which was made in Chinese and in English, and the conditions made under it allowing repatriation. It read—

> "In sending in your petitions, however, you must clearly inform me of the motives which influenced you in the first instance to enlist, and now influence you in wishing to return to China, of the amount of monthly wages you earn, of the class of work on which you are engaged, and of the money you have saved. I will take note of and register the application. It will then be your duty, if required, to work in your mine faithfully and honestly for one month. If at the end of this period you are still of the same mind, and will contribute half of the wages earned in that month towards your travelling expenses, I will arrange for your return to China without unnecessary delay."

That could hardly be said to be a carrying out of the very simple and wise words which were spoken by the Under-Secretary of State that the Chinaman might return to his country, without giving any reasons, at the expense of the British Exchequer. It appeared from that that he was to pay part of the expenses. These were recognised to be extreme conditions by such an unfriendly critic as the *Transvaal Leader*, which said that under the limitations contained in the Proclamation no Chinaman would be able to leave the Rand. That was the view which was taken both there and here, and in consequence of Liberal representations the proclamation was at once amended and a revised edition of it was issued by Lord Elgin and published. But in the revised edition there still appeared this liability to pay half a month's wages, and the other original conditions. What they complained of was that such a proclamation, couched in such language, should be hedged round with such conditions, which were not of the kind that they had a right to expect from the speeches of his hon. friend or from the Prime Minister, having regard to the first speech the right hon. Gentleman made at the opening of this Parliament. It was not merely laid down that the Chinaman should declare the motive which led him to desire to go home, but it was stipulated that he should deposit his petition in a box, and in that way it was to reach the Government of the Transvaal, or the Superintendent of Foreign Labour, Mr. Jamieson. In this Report of Mr. Jamieson they had a very interesting statement as to the only way in which the Chinese labourer was to have his grievances redressed. He described the state of things in many compounds, in which the police, working in collusion with their so called-controllers, committed excesses and blackmailed the Chinese; and owing to a system of mutual screening it was impossible to bring these offences home to them. The managers, being unable to communicate directly *viva voce* with their Chinese employees, were kept entirely in the dark, and, so long as, on the surface, things were working smoothly, believed that all was in order. It was when the officers of the Department, baffled at every turn in their efforts to get at the truth, set about probing into this corruption that friction arose. The Report proceeded to say that—

> "Asking the coolies to lay complaints or grievances by means of petition before the superintendent was held to be subversive of mine discipline, and arguing analogically from accepted principles governing the armies and navies of the world, it was contended that the Chinese on the mines should be taught to exhaust all means of redress through the various grades of non-governmental executive officers placed over them before venturing to apply to this Department."

Had there been any reasonable prospect of the coolies obtaining redress through such channels this very sound and reasonable contention would have been willingly subscribed to. But when it was well known that insuperable difficulties lay in the way of any coolie endeavouring to surmount the barriers separating him from his employer, one was reluctantly compelled to differ. Le them take, for example, a mine on which the controller had sold himself in the manner described to his Chinese police. A coolie with a grievance against the police would on the basis of this contention have to apply to him in the first instance. Human nature being what it was, it was in the highest degree improbable that he would obtain a hearing. He would, on the contrary, in all likelihood, have a sound thrashing administered to him for his temerity. Should he reach the controller, would the latter be prone to entertain a charge against his confederates and lay it before the manager? And should the coolie by chance penetrate to the actual presence of the manager, how could he make himself articulate? The manager, not being conversant with Chinese, would send for the controller, who would no doubt see to it that nothing incriminating himself or his police was allowed to reach the employer's ears. Strenuous efforts were also made to discourage the presentation of petitions in writing to the superintendent, a measure designed to afford the aggrieved coolie an opportunity of unburdening himself to an impartial outsider; it was held that such should be invariably addressed to the manager. Granted the latter, how would the manager propose to deal with them? He could not read Chinese, and would have to call in the aid of some mine interpreter. This class of person, being, as a rule, far from trustworthy, would take equally good care to suppress any inconvenient revelations therein contained. In practice, as a matter of fact, experience has taught the coolie to be chary of sending petitions of any kind, because as one of their number remarked—

> "What is the good of lodging petitions when the box is systematically opened by the police, the contents read, and the applicant punished by them? The fact that the box for purposes of convenience, was put near the gate in close proximity to the police quarters, enabled the latter to keep a deterrent eye on all who attempted to make use of it."

Under these circumstances, what chance had those coolies who wished to go home under this repatriation scheme? When hon. Members opposite made a great point of the fact that only 750 applications had been made under this repatriation proclamation, the wonder with him was that there were even seventy. That being the case, he would only say one other thing in answer to the observation that these applications had been so few. It was a most remarkable thing that although there had only been 700 applications under the repatriation proclamation, there had been considerably more coolies who had bought out and out their discharge, and he number who had deserted and gone into the open country was larger still. When they knew that the Chinaman directly he got out into the open country was an outlaw with not only every man's hand but every man's rifle against him, that he went into the open country with starvation and robbery before him, with liability to be shot at—when they found there were 1,700 or 1,800 coolies who did that rather than apply for repatriation, they were justified in saying that the fault was with the proclamation and not with the will of the Chinese. There were evils so inherent among the Chinese that even if repatriation had been carried on more in the way they could have wished, in their judgment it would not have been sufficient. What they ought to have seen and what they would like to have seen was compulsory repatriation begun as soon as the Government were in a position to appreciate all the circumstances; to have seen it begun gradually so that when the new Colonial Government came into office they would have found the system in operation and would have only had to carry it on. Such a thing would have saved both the Government in South Africa and the Imperial Government a great deal of embarrassment. The results had shown that this system a of labour could not and ought not to be maintained by any good Government. First of all, there was the illegal flogging that went on. He was quite prepared to give those who sanctioned it credit for the belief that that was the only way in which this labour could be enforced, but what a commentary that was on the system.

THE CHAIRMAN said this was a vote for repatriation, and the hon. Member was not entitled to discuss the whole system of Chinese labour.

*MR. MACKARNESS explained that he was trying to give his reasons why repatriation should have been carried out compulsorily. The outrages that had occurred in the Transvaal were a justification for it. When they considered that among the 47,000 Chinese on the Rand now the convictions for murder were almost as numerous as, and that other serious crimes were more numerous than in England and Wales with a population of 32,000,000, he held that they were justified in condemning this system so thoroughly that there could not be any other possible course than compulsory repatriation. Another reason was the disclosures made in the Report of the investigations of Mr. Bucknill, disclosures that had never been denied. The state of things disclosed there not only convinced Members of this House but such men as Sir Richard Solomon, who up to that time had supported Chinese labour. A further reason, even more powerful than any other with some Members of the House, was that by repatriating the coolies there would be more employment for white men. Hon. Members opposite had contended that the more Chinese that were imported the more employment there would be for white men, but the figures showed exactly the contrary.

THE CHAIRMAN called the hon. Member's attention to the fact that this Supplementary Estimate was for a sum of money for the repatriation of the Chinese. The hon. Member might deal with that, but he would not be in order in discussing the whole question of Chinese labour.

*MR. MACKARNESS said he was trying to show that this Vote should have been much larger, and he thought the reasons he had mentioned were germane to the subject. They were anxious to know how far repatriation was going to be continued in the future. Statements had been made in the Letters Patent and Constitution of the Transvaal, and in the speech of his hon. friend and other Members of the Government, that this repatriation would be continued and would be insisted upon even if the Transvaal Government should be desirous of putting an end to it. He appealed to his hon. friend on this occasion to give an assurance that all the promises made in regard to repatriation would be adhered to to the letter, because statements had been made in another place by the Secretary of State which seemed to lend some colour to the suggestion that there might be renewals of licences to Chinese and that there would be no repatriation if licences were renewed. He hoped therefore the hon. Gentleman would say that there was to be no departure from this policy of repatriation.

MR. ASHLEY (Lancashire, Blackpool) said that before discussing the question of the repatriation of the Chinese, he desired to ask a question with regard to the Vote for £4,070 to start the flax industry at St. Helena. The reason for this Vote was that the garrison had been removed from that island in order to save £10,000 to the Exchequer. They were now asked to vote £4,070 to start an industry to make up for the loss caused to the island by the removal of the garrison. In the Report of Sir Daniel Morris on the present position and prospects of the agricultural resources of the Island of St. Helena.

"The area of St. Helena is about 45 square miles. Of the 28,000 acres of which the island consists, the greater portion suitable for cultivation is in private hands. Of this area probably 20,000 acres, or more than two-thirds, are composed of barren rocky wastes or clayey slopes totally unfit in their present condition for any agricultural operations. About 8,000 acres are in pasture and hay land. The tendency is to throw more and more land out of cultivation and place it in grass. This is a retrograde step as regards the agricultural interests of the island, but it is inevitable under the influences which obtain at present. Under forest, both of indigenous and introduced trees, there may be altogether about 400 acres. This last area practically represents all the land now used for raising crops and for contributing to the food supply of the natives. Under these circumstances, the outlook in St. Helena is a very serious one. Unless the Home Government is prepared to give the island some assistance, and support it while endeavouring to develop the resources of its soil, I fear there is little hope in the future. I would recommend, in the first instance, that an intelligent and competent gardener be sent to the island to take up the entire question of the revival of agricultural pursuits, and if

> the local Government is unable to support such an officer and a small staff, that a grant be made for the purpose by the Home Government."

He hoped and trusted that the £4,000 would set the island on its legs, but he rather feared that before many years another grant would be required from the Imperial Government for carrying on the industry. Flax was mostly grown in Russia at the present time, near Archangel, and there, where the conditions of labour were cheap, where food was cheap, they made a bare profit out of flax. In Belgium, where flax was cultivated very scientifically, a very small profit was made; and if they looked at the statistics of Ireland for the last thirty years, they would find that the cultivation of flax had diminished by one-half. He felt rather sceptical about the success of this proposal, though he gave it his cordial support; but if the Government thought £4,000 would get them out of their difficulty they were very much mistaken. As to the repatriation of the Chinese coolies, in the first place he objected to the Vote because he did not see why the country should be obliged to pay the election expenses of the Government, or why they should be obliged to give the friends who helped them so much a free journey across the sea at the cost of £30 a head. He also objected to the Vote because he did not see why the Chinese, who were well able to look after themselves, should be given preferential treatment over other indentured labourers of the Empire. Why should the Chinaman, who made his own contract, be sent back at this country's cost simply because he was bored and wanted to go home, when a child of twelve or fifteen years of age, in another part of the Empire, was obliged to work out the long period of three years' servitude, from early morn to dewy eve, with one hour off? He simply drew attention to the curious coincidence that, within one week of February 19th, when the Prime Minister made his declaration that Chinamen were to be sent back at the public expense, this other Convention was signed imposing these conditions.

MR. AINSWORTH (Argyllshire): On a point of order, Sir, is the hon. Member entitled to refer to the Hebrides Convention on the Vote for Repatriation?

THE CHAIRMAN: I do not think the hon. Member is out of order in the comparison he has just now made.

MR. ASHLEY said he would not go into that further. He objected to this Vote for the very good reason that he thought that the Chinaman was far better able to stand the heavy work in the mine in South Africa than was the native. The Chinese coolie had been recruited in the north of China, and was a miner, like his ancestors before him; he was accustomed to work below ground, like the coalminer in England. But it was a very severe task for the native of South Africa, who was mostly recruited from the mines in Portuguese South Africa, a country almost level with the sea, and very hot. The natives were taken to the elevated region where the mines were situated, and they were very much subject to pneumonia; the death-rate among the natives in the mines was very high indeed, and the mortality among the Chinamen was much lower. For that reason, if for no other, he supported the retention of the Chinese in the Rand. It was very difficult for agriculturists in the Transvaal to get labour for their farms—he was speaking of two or three years ago. A gentleman who came over here in connection with the South African Exhibition, and who had had a great deal to do with farmers, both Boer and Briton, said that before the advent of the Chinaman he was always having complaints that the farmers could not get labourers, but that since the Chinaman had arrived he had not had a single complaint from the Boer farmers that they were short of labour. He thought that should be taken into account when they were discussing the subject of repatriation, and whether it was wise or not.

MR. CHURCHILL said his hon. friend was not now referring to repatriation of Chinamen by State aid, but to the general question of diminution of labour on the land. Was it not so?

MR. ASHLEY said he did not think so, and he would be called to order by the Chairman if he was out of order. Surely if 750 Chinamen were sent home their places would have to be filled up by a certain number of natives from other places. At any rate, they knew that this Vote for the repatriation of the Chinese labourers was a result of the last general election. Not only were a large number in the Transvaal in favour of Chinese labour, but they said that they would not send away the Chinamen until their places were taken by natives.

MR. CHURCHILL said it might accelerate the Estimates if he made a brief attempt to give information to hon. Gentlemen who had asked questions with regard to the grant to St. Helena and with reference to the repatriation of the Chinese labourers. Hon. Members knew well that the policy of military and naval concentration was inaugurated, and very properly inaugurated, under the late Government, and had been carried out and extended under His Majesty's present advisers. The withdrawal of the garrison of 250 men or thereabouts from St. Helena had struck a heavy blow at the economic prosperity of the island. The island had already suffered by the diversion of ocean-borne traffic due to the opening of the Suez Canal, and it had been maintained at an artificial level of development owing to the custom afforded by the presence of the British garrison. Now, all of a sudden, for reasons connected with Imperial policy, it had been decided that the garrison should be withdrawn, and a great and sensible shrinkage in the means of livelihood of the people in the island had necessarily followed. He appealed with some confidence to the Committee to say that an Imperial obligation rested upon us to do something to maintain the people of St. Helena. For very many years past, since the island had been in our possession, we had used it for various purposes, some of a great and some of a small and less imposing character, and no doubt our use of it as a military and coaling station had been the principal cause of the maintenance of its people at the existing level. If, all of a sudden, in changing their policy for larger considerations, the Government were to leave those islanders wholly to their fate and make no attempt to lower them gradually to a new level—a new economic standard—which would prevail there after the troops were gone, they would be justly blamable by the Committee. What then was to be done? The Government had done everything in their power; they had practised most severe retrenchment over the whole of the salaries of officials throughout the island, feeling that this was preferable to the dismissal of individuals, and that it would spread the sacrifice more evenly. In the second place, they had looked about for remedies, and the Vote by no means exhausted the remedies under consideration. Something might be done if arrangements could be made by which British warships at intervals revictualled at the island. The islanders had been encouraged to keep some 1,500 head of cattle, thus affording the means for an important food supply in time of war. It might be possible, though this was a matter for arrangement by the Admiralty, that ships calling at intervals might afford some kind of market to the islanders for vegetables and live stock. But above all it was thought that some attempt should be made to give St. Helena a self-supporting industry. After much consideration it had been thought that the best prospect that offered itself was by the development and extension of the growth of flax for export and not for local consumption. The Report of Sir Daniel Morris was valuable in this connection, and he had done excellent work in the West Indies as head of the Department of Agriculture. Sir Daniel Morris recommended the cultivation of New Zealand flax and the export of fibre for papermaking, and upon this the Government had proceeded with circumspection, for they were avowedly embarking upon a measure of relief, and not essentially an economic experiment, for a situation of acute distress arising owing to a sudden alteration in Imperial policy. They had arranged that an expert should proceed from New Zealand to supervise the introduction of the new industry into the island; and the £4,070 in the Estimate would provide not merely for grants to assist individual cultivators to grow flax, but also machinery for crushing the leaves and preparing the material for shipment, for engine buildings and the application of water-power, drying-sheds, and various processes of detail, and also a grant of £500 for supply of seed to small landholders. This was a better method of assistance than a mere grant in aid from which the ordinary native population would derive small advantage. The Government would not proceed further than expert opinion encouraged and results justified; but if good fortune attended their efforts, possibly—though a little more money would be required in the future—the island would gain a valuable asset, forming from year to year a spring of wealth, modest in quantity, but affording some compensation for the distress occasioned by the withdrawal of the garrison. It would not be a recurring grant, but it was quite possible that the House might be asked for a grant to carry on the civil administration.

A more important and less attractive question raised was that of the repatriation of Chinese coolies from South Africa. He was sorry to hear his hon. friend refer to the New Hebrides Convention. It would be disorderly for him to press his remarks with any detail; but he would have thought that his hon. friend, who attended discussion in the House very closely and endeavoured to maintain his points with scrupulous fairness, would have realised that there was absolutely no analogy whatever, and that it was not true, if he might say so without discourtesy, that, under the New Hebrides Convention labourers, girls, and young children could be forced to work from sunrise to sunset. He would not argue that in detail now, but would be quite prepared to do so whenever the rules of the House allowed the subject to be brought forward, and to cast some illumination on the motives which animated their activity in this matter. [AN HON. MEMBER: Do not impute motives.] He was not imputing motives; on the contrary he indicated that. But the time for dealing with that matter had not arrived. Hon. Members had spoken of the Grant in Aid of repatriation. A vote of £22,000 was asked for, and what was the policy which led to this item of expenditure? The Government objected to certain provisions, certain characteristics, in the Ordinance for the importation of Chinese labour into the Transvaal. It was not in the power of the Government to alter or remove all the provisions they objected to, but they saw that they could provide security for no man's being forced, through want of funds, to continue to subject himself to those conditions against his will; they provided for this by a very modest, but necessarily complicated, method, so that the coolie, from want of money, should not be prevented from availing himself of a clause in his indentures which entitled him to purchase his discharge on payment of the actual cost of his importation to South Africa, namely £17. The Committee knew the whole history of the transaction from beginning to end, and he, speaking on behalf of His Majesty's Government, had nothing to be ashamed of in the matter. They had never expected, never intended, State-aided repatriation to lead to a general exodus of Chinese coolies from the Rand. What they wanted was that a man driven to desperation—so anxious to quit employment he disliked that he would run the risk of desertion and would become a wanderer and an outlaw rather than continue his employment—what they wanted was to find another way, to provide an emergency exit, enabling such a man to find his way back to his own country during the transition period between the accession of the present Government to power and the election of responsible Ministers in the Transvaal. The hon. Member for Newbury had quoted a sentence from a speech which he (Mr. Churchill) delivered at the beginning of the session, and said that the proposal of the Government did not come up to the expectations excited by that speech; but it would be seen, by reference to the report of that speech, that, though assistance was to be given if the desire of a coolie to return was sincere, whether he gave good reason or no reason, it was always contemplated that some guarantee of sincerity in the desire should be introduced, the guarantee of sincerity taking the form, perhaps, of a reduction in their wages, or of a period of notice. He thought the Government had endeavoured to carry that out very cordially and fully. The instructions to that effect were contained in the telegram which Lord Elgin sent to Lord Selborne on 18th February, 1906. What had been the results of that policy? Since the announcement of the proclamation on the subject about 1,500 coolies had applied to be repatriated at the Government expense. About 750 had been so repatriated. Others had been repatriated under the provisions of the Labour Ordinance at the cost of their employers, because they were bad characters. The Government did not intend to charge to British funds any item of expense in connection with Chinese labour which, by a fair construction of the Ordinance, could be put upon the employers. Others, again, had been repatriated at their own expense, because they were found to be in possession of money which would enable them to purchase their discharge in the ordinary way, and, therefore, could not be described as being prevented by want of funds from returning home. A small number who had made application to be repatriated had been refused on various grounds. In one case the ground of refusal was that there was, on the part of a number of coolies who asked to be repatriated at the Government expense, a plot to murder another coolie who was going home on board the same ship. He thought there were about 137 coolies who had applied for repatriation and afterwards withdrawn their request, stating that they preferred to work out their indentures. The cost of repatriation was likely to vary from time to time, principally because the importation of coolies into South Africa, which had gone on during the last two years of the late Government, having now come absolutely to an end, there were no ships returning to China with whom special arrangements could be made. At any rate, the first batch of repatriated coolies cost £28 per head; a second batch of 285 cost £22 10s. per head; and a third batch of 214 cost £25 per head. He trusted the Committee would pass the Vote without much disputation or opposition. So much for the past. The hon. Member for Newbury had asked what was going to happen in the future. It was always difficult to predict what the action of their own Government or the House of Commons would be in the future. But it was still more difficult to forecast the future when they were dealing with another Government and another Assembly which were just called into being and were about to be installed in the place of power. He, therefore, could not attempt to make any definite statement as to the exact detailed policy which His Majesty's Government would pursue. They must first know what the character, complexion, and opinion of the new Transvaal Assembly and Government would be; and especially their attitude in regard to the Chinese labour question. He was very hopeful that they would be a Government and an Assembly opposed altogether to the system of Chinese indentured labour; and if that were so he did not anticipate any difficulty in coming to a satisfactory arrangement with them for the winding up of this labour experiment, which had proved so great a disadvantage to South Africa, and had introduced such complications in the relations of the home Government with that Colony.

MR. LYTTELTON (St. George's, Hanover Square) said he would not trouble the Committee very long, because he did not think the speech of the Under-Secretary had introduced anything except what they knew very well before. Indeed, the hon. Member had not furnished any answer at all to the hon. Member for Newbury. He himself was concerned only with the present condition of things in the Transvaal in so far as it related to the policy of His Majesty's late advisers. He agreed with what the Under-Secretary had said as to the policy of the late Government, as well as of the present Government, to concentrate and reduce Colonial garrisons. The result of that policy must be a very considerable saving to the country. Unfortunately, it had done injury to St. Helena; and the action of the Government in establishing an industry for the good of the inhabitants had his hearty approval. Of course, they must watch its developments and see whether the anticipations which the Government had made were successful. What they had done up to the present moment did not, by any means, prevent criticism being made in the future if the results they anticipated did not occur. The Committee were asked to vote £22,000 for the repatriation of Chinese coolies. The inference which he drew from the speech of the Under-Secretary was one which ought to be satisfactory to every Member of the House. He did not care what hon. Gentlemen had said in the country; he did not care how many of his friends had been turned out of their seats in consequence of the representations which were made at the time of the election, and more particularly the representations which were made of the suffering, misery, and ill-usage of the Chinese. They all knew what these representations were; many of them had good reason to know what their effect was, and they could no undo that until a future occasion. But they could point out how far these representations had been contradicted by the inexorable logic of facts. As he understood, this policy of repatriation had been adopted by His Majesty's Government against the desire and advice of Lord Selborne. It amounted to an invitation to these so-called ill-used and miserable slaves to come out of their bondage and return home. They were, in fact, to quote the picturesque language of a member of the Government, asked to go back to China in the steam yachts of His Majesty's Government at the expense of His Majesty's Government. What was the response of these poor unhappy men who, we were told on countless platforms, were suffering a grievious wrong? People in South Africa, and on countless platforms in this country, had endeavoured to persuade these poor unhappy men that they were suffering from some grievance. And how did the poor bondsmen reply? Why, after the hon. Member for Newbury and an hon Gentleman distinguished in India, had settled and re-settled the notice which was to invite them to go home at this Government's expense, and after every possible provision had been made for their comfort and protection, ninety-nine out of every 100 of these bondsmen refused to go. The result was that with a Government bitterly hostile to the experiment of Chinese labour, and desiring, above all things, to prove that it was slavery, that the Chinese were ill used and had to work under conditions which they greatly disliked, only 1 per cent. of the coolies accepted the offer of repatriation. He was fully aware that, however well used the Chinese were—and there was no question that they had been thoroughly well used—[Cries of "No, no" and "Flogged."]—that did not wholly conclude the subject. Some hon. Members thought that from the point of view of the inhabitants of the Transvaal, it was undesirable that the Chinese should be there, and doing the work which they were doing. But he would put this point to those who took that view—a view with which he had no sympathy. His Majesty's Government had now erected the Transvaal into a self-governing Colony, and the result of the election was known to all, as well as the attitude taken by all Parties with respect to Chinese labour. The attitude he himself had taken was that Chinese labour should not be a permanent, but a temporary experiment, and, so far as he understood the telegram which Lord Elgin sent at the beginning of his tenure of office, the Secretary of State also really accepted that view [MINISTERIAL cries of dissent]. Everybody in the Transvaal took that view too—they wished to supplement native labour; they did not wish to have forced native labour; they wanted the mines to be worked on full time; but when there was a reasonable prospect of replacing the Chinese labour by native labour—[AN HON. MEMBER: Or by machinery]—well, or by machinery, or by any other legitimate means, no one wished the Chinese to remain in the Transvaal any longer. From the Chinese point of view, the success of the experiment had been absolutely established. [MINISTERIAL Cries of "No."] He maintained that that was proved by their action, and any other objections must be from the point of view of the inhabitants of the Transvaal. It was not for us, from our eminence here, to prescribe to the inhabitants of the Transvaal what was good for them, now that they had self-government. They were judges of their own problems, and quite as good judges as we of the moral and economic conditions under which this experiment was proceeding. If they took the view that the experiment ought to cease, no one on the Opposition side of the House would dream for a moment of interfering with their decision. But once we had satisfied ourselves that everything had been done by scrupulous care for the comfort and proper well-being and convenience of the Chinese, we must surely let the people of the Transvaal judge, unless we were going to enter into a controversy which might have the gravest consequences. We could only say: "Whatever opinions we have held here, and whatever follies we may have uttered at the general election, you must decide." No sensible or modest man would say that the opinion of the people of this country in respect to this problem was entitled to greater weight than the deliberate opinion of the people of the Transvaal who now enjoyed self-government. As to flogging, it seemed to him that the hon. Member for Newbury had given, quite unintentionally, of course, the impression to the Committee that it was only by the action of His Majesty's present Government that any irregularities of that kind had been corrected. The fact was that these irregularities had been stopped so far back as June, 1905.

MR. J. WARD (Stoke-on-Trent): Then the Chinese were flogged; you admit that.

MR. LYTTELTON said he hoped the hon. Member would spare him these interruptions, which were not very courteous, and attend to his observations.

MR. J. WARD: On a point of order; the right hon. Gentleman a minute ago stated that the coolies were never ill-treated, but now he has admitted they were flogged.

* THE CHAIRMAN said that the right hon. Gentleman was in possession, and the matter raised by the hon. Member for Stoke-on-Trent was not a point of order.

MR. LYTTELTON said it would be ridiculous for anyone to pretend that no irregularities had ever taken place; but so scrupulous was he that everyone should know before the election what had taken place, that at Leamington, as well as in a Blue-book, he had called specific attention to these irregularities.

* THE CHAIRMAN said he thought that the right hon. Gentleman was out of order in dealing with these old controversies on this Vote.

MR. LYTTELTON said he was replying to statements made by the hon. Member for Newbury, but he would not pursue the subject further than to say that since June, 1905, there had not been a shred of evidence of such irregularity, and the late Government did not go out of power until the following November. He would once more beg hon. Members to consider whether this problem had not now been shifted to another scene, and whether it would not be infinitely better for this country, and for the Transvaal, that, upon problems with which the latter had a far more intimate acquaintance than anyone in this House, the people of the Transvaal should now be left to judge for themselves.

MAJOR SEELY (Liverpool, Abercromby) said the right hon. Gentleman opposite had travelled over a wide field, and he trusted he might be allowed to reply to him without reference merely to the repatriation of the Chinese or the £22,000. The right hon. Gentleman had complained of interruptions from below the gangway. No one meant any personal discourtesy to him; there was no one for whom all parts of the House had a greater respect. The only thing was that he did try them rather severely when he stood up and tried to make them believe that, because this particular sum of £22,000 was a small amount, the whole Chinese experiment had been found to be a complete success, that all the evils they prophesied were non-existent, and that they might now wash their hands of the arrangement.

MR. LYTTELTON: That was not my argument. What I said was that the refusal of the Chinese to accept repatriation at the Government expense is a proof that they are not ill-used or unhappy.

MAJOR SEELY said that was the point made, but it was further amplified by the right hon. Gentleman, and it was when those amplifications were brought in that really it was more than human nature could bear. The truth was that the experiment had been a ghastly failure, and no one knew it better than the right hon. Gentleman. The policy of repatriation, for which they were now asked to vote this sum, was made necessary because the state of crime within the compounds had become so great and so alarming that some means had to be found by which any coolie who wished to escape could do so without becoming an outlaw. They had repatriated 6,000, and was it possible to get away from the fact that they must have palliations of this accursed and detestable system, because, wherever they checked the evil in one direction, it broke out in another? It was the direct result of importing a servile class into a civilised community. The only regret they had was they could not repatriate them all. With regard to the question addressed by his hon. friend the Member for Newbury to the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, it was quite plain that Chinese labour must come to an end under the terms of the Ordinance. There could be no renewals under the Ordinance. Therefore in June next the Chinese who had finished their three years—about 15,000—would begin to return. Under no possible circumstances could any more Chinese be enlisted in China for service under servile conditions. It was, therefore, perfectly apparent that the Chinese experiment must come to an end within three or four years from to-day. That was the condition on which self-government was granted. The words used in the Letters Patent clearly put an end to anything in the nature of the compound system, and, unless they were going to admit these people as citizens, they could not have any more. Therefore the principle of free or not at all for which the whole of the Liberal Party had contended so fiercely and so long, and from which it would never recede, was now established, nor was there any chance that complications would ensue of any serious nature. The right hon. Gentleman opposite laughed. He seemed to view almost with glee the difficulties which must supervene in dealing with a self-governing Colony.

MR. LYTTELTON: It was the portrait of the Liberal Party I was laughing at.

MAJOR SEELY said the right hon. Gentleman was once a distinguished Member of the Liberal Party, and he would have thought that he would have been rejoiced with the fact that the Liberal Party was pledged to the principle that whoever came under the British flag should come free or not at all. [OPPOSITION cries of "New Hebrides!"] The New Hebrides were not under the British flag, and none of these servile conditions of service or residence did in point of fact obtain there, and the whole comparison was a farrago of nonsense. It did not surely become his right hon. friend opposite to laugh at the possibility of a conflict with a self-governing Colony in getting rid of a system which this country could not possibly agree to, which this country never did agree to, which the people of that Colony never agreed to, and which the right hon. Gentleman and his friends, being, as they now knew, a small minority, forced upon that country. He himself had no fears for the future.

SIR F. BANBURY (City of London) said he had very great sympathy with the hon. and gallant Member. He was sure that the part which he had taken during the last year or two had been taken through conscientious sympathy, and it was very hard upon him when at last the opportunity arose for the repatriation of these servile people by a Radical Government, to which he had given his support, the result should have been that only 1¼ per cent. of the coolies had availed themselves of it. It was really only rather more than one per cent., but so as not to understate the case he would take it as one and a quarter. He would therefore forgive the hon. and gallant Gentleman for having been led away into all sorts of questions as to what would happen to these men who had been well treated under the new Transvaal Government.

MAJOR SEELY said he was sure the hon. Baronet would forgive him if he reminded him that a man was not less a slave because he was well treated.

SIR F. BANBURY said he did not think it would be in order to discuss the question of when a man was a slave. He thought, however, he might say there was a very simple definition of what constituted a slave, and it was that a man was detained in a position against his will. It was evident, however, that there were 98¾ per cent. of the Chinese coolies in South Africa who were not detained against their will. He had listened with great attention to the speech of the hon. Member for Newbury, who had said that he was afraid that the pledges given by the Under-Secretary for the Colonies some time ago had not been carried out. He had great sympathy with the hon. Gentleman. He was sympathetic with his ignorance. What did he expect? If he expected that the Under-Secretary really meant to make some great effort to end this condition of so-called slavery, he must have been a great deal more innocent than those who sat upon the Opposition side of the House. He would call the attention of the Committee to the peculiar state of the attendance at the present moment. There was only one

Member of the Labour Party present, and it was obvious that other Members of the Radical Party did not share in the anxiety of the hon. Member for Newbury on this subject. He would like to refer to a statement in the *Westminster Gazette*, pointing out that the Under-Secretary said when he brought forward this plan of repatriation that it was "an emergency exit." The hon. Gentleman omitted one word. It ought to have been "a political emergency exit." Then he thought they would have ascertained the true inwardness of this Vote. He understood the hon. Member to say that the terms of the Proclamation were absolutely useless, because according to the Blue-book if the coolie availed himself of the proposal he had to go to the coolie manager, and in all probability all that he got was a flogging. That was going on in September last, but the Party opposite were then in power. They were in power a year and a half after these illegal floggings were known and had done nothing to stop them, and then came these illegal floggings in September last that were stopping repatriation! With regard to the financial part of the question he would like to say he had always understood that hon. Members opposite would present their Estimates in such a form as would lead to no waste of time by its being necessary to ask what they meant. We were now within five weeks of the end of the financial year and this Estimate had only just come before the Committee. It was an Estimate of the probable amount that would be required. The Government even now did not know what the actual cost would be! It was the most casual way of bringing in an Estimate. He was glad to see that the hon. Gentleman had safeguarded himself as to the future. When the hon. Member for Newbury wanted to know whether repatriation was to be enforced or not the hon. Member said it was impossible to foretell and that he would not make any promise. The hon. Gentleman was wise, but he would have been wiser still had he not made so many promises in the past. Then with regard to the Vote for St. Helena he would like to know what market there was for this flax industry if it was successful. He understood that the soil of St. Helena was extremely barren; and he would like to know what market there was for the flax if it was raised. Everybody agreed that something ought to be done for this Colony. We had reduced the garrison there, and the first result was that we had to find money to make up the loss caused thereby. He had understood that the people would have been content if the small number who were left and who were only taken away recently had remained, in which case it would not have been necessary to have promoted the flax industry. He understood from the hon. Gentleman that this was not to be a recurring Vote, but at the same time the hon. Gentleman was careful to say that in event of the flax industry not being successful there would have to be a further grant. Even supposing the flax industry were a success it would take three or four years to develop, so that in all probability further grants would have to be made. Would it not have been better to have kept a certain number of troops at St. Helena and thus avoided this Estimate altogether? By keeping the troops there we should have been able to guard that possession, and now whatever might be the result of the flax industry it would not enhance or sustain British prestige in that Island. He thought that this Supplementary Estimate which was £5,000 in excess of the original Estimate was a very large one under the circumstances, and he ask why the original Estimate was so inaccurate, what the new £5,000 was for, and whether the hon. Gentleman would give the Committee an assurance that the new Estimates which would come up for consideration very soon would be framed in such a way as to avoid Supplementary Estimates altogether.

SIR GILBERT PARKER (Gravesend) thought the sympathies of the Committee ought to be extended to the hon. Member for Newbury and the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool, because it was quite evident that the policy they had hoped would be applied effectively for the repatriation of the Chinese had proved unsuccessful. The irritation of the hon. Member for the Abercromby Division was founded, he believed, on a discontent with the Government and with the hon. Gentleman who was responsible for the Colonial policy of the Government in this House. If all Chinamen could be repatriated and replaced by native labour such a policy would be cordially supported by the Opposition. There was not a man on the Unionist side of the House who advocated the importation of Chinese labour except as an economic necessity due to the absence of a sufficient supply of native labour. The Under-Secretary had made some astonishing speeches in this House, and upon those speeches the hon. Member for Newbury had based his expectation. The hon. Member on the 22nd of February, 1905, when speaking of his policy of repatriation, said that the basis of that policy was the cruelty that was inflicted on these labourers.

*THE CHAIRMAN: I do not see what this has to do with the Vote.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said he was trying to show that the policy of repatriation was based on charges of cruelty, and that the hon. Member for Newbury and his friends had entertained expectations which had not been fulfilled.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Gentleman could not be allowed to go into the wider question of the policy of Chinese labour. He had stopped the hon. Member for Newbury on this subject, and he could not allow a general discussion on this particular Supplementary Estimate.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said he had an extract which he was about to read which put his proposition in another way. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies on the 8th June, 1906, said—

> "I do say, and it is my duty to state to the House what I believe, that after what has occurred in connection with this repatriation proclamation, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that there is no general desire on the part of the coolies employed on the Witwatersrand to leave their work and to return to China."

That was a very frank statement. He had been going to say that the hon. Gentleman voiced the failure of the policy of the Government, and made that frank statement.

MR. CHURCHILL: No.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said the result of that policy was that something like 700 Chinamen had been repatriated, or 1 per cent. Altogether there had been repatriated 2 per cent., or between 1,000 and 1,100. There were those who had been compulsorily repatriated because they were unfit or because of their conduct. The hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool had made the serious statement that the Government were committed by the Transvaal Ordinance to a policy which would be adopted if the people of the Transvaal arranged that Chinese labour should again be brought into the Colony, and that the Chinese so brought in should not be allowed to become citizens. There was not a Member but knew that in the whole of South Africa the Chinese would never be allowed to settle as citizens and so compete with skilled labour and with the various occupations of workmen in the Transvaal. That was settled. In the Transvaal they said that they could not disorganise the labour of the Colony, and that if the Chinamen were taken away they must have a sufficient supply of natives for their mines. All parties would agree that they could never get natives for the work to be done in the mines; therefore, they must begin to import Chinese labour. If the Chinese so imported were not to be permitted to become citizens, were the Government prepared to say to the people of the Transvaal, "No"?

THE CHAIRMAN said he must remind the hon. Member that this was a question which could not be discussed in any shape or form on the Supplementary Estimate. The hon. Gentleman must confine himself to the question.

SIR GILBERT PARKER said his point was that the policy of repatriation had not been successful, and the expectations of Members on the other side had not been fulfilled. He believed that the Under-Secretary and the Government recognised the fact, though they had been able to bridge over a difficult moment in their political experience—when there was a clamour of Members behind them who honestly believed that repatriation would be carried out—by the policy which they had adopted and which had failed. Hon. Members opposite realised, if they could realise anything at all, that they were facing now the entirely new position of a Government which had registered its failure regarding its policy and its promise. The promise was that repatriation would solve the difficulty, and this appeased the consciences of hon. Members who supported the Government. It had not solved the difficulty, and the promises of the Government had not been fulfilled.

MR. J. WARD said the hon. Member for Gravesend had based his observations on the ground that the Chinese were an economic necessity in South Africa, but he believed that cheapness from beginning to end had been the real motive for their introduction. He further believed that if the verdict of the country were taken again, the opposition to Chinese labour would again become apparent.

THE CHAIRMAN said he had just called to order another hon. Member for speaking on this very subject, and the hon. Member must endeavour to confine his remarks within the rules of order.

MR. J. WARD said he wished to support the Vote for repatriation, and, if possible within the rules of order, to state his reasons for doing so. He did not believe that the country was fully satisfied with what the Government had done on this subject. He believed the country was absolutely sick of Chinese labour from beginning to end—so sick that they would have been prepared to go to any expense to clear the Chinamen out bag and baggage, rather than have all this difficulty and probable besmirching of the name of a free and democratic country by the continuance of a system of slavery which was absolutely alien to their ideas.

*THE CHAIRMAN said that the hon. Member was again out of order.

MR. J. WARD said it was not because he wished to transgress the rules of order; it was because others had travelled along those lines during the Chairman's absence, and it semed that he must answer some of the statements that had been made. For instance, they had been told that they could not send the Chinamen back as quickly as was desirable because of the difficulties and the peculiar conditions in regard to labour which prevailed at present. But the conditions were so outrageous, so servile——

*THE CHAIRMAN said the hon. Member was again discussing the general question, and he must warn him that unless he kept in order he must request him to resume his seat.

MR. J. WARD said he supported repatriation, and if he could only say that he was in favour of the proposal, then he would resume his seat.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY (Shropshire, Newport) said he wanted to say a word or two on the flax question in St. Helena, and the bounty given; for it was a bounty, and the Under-Secretary of State had defended it. The hon. Gentleman had said he gave the bounty because it would relieve the acute distress arising out of the Government's policy. He would like to ask the hon. Gentleman whether he would relieve acute agricultural distress in England by granting a bounty on wheat. He would leave the Under-Secretary and the question of St. Helena in that dilemma. The hon. Member for the Abercromby Division of Liverpool had made an appeal to human nature, and asked how any Member could sit in this House and hear what was said without his feelings being stirred to indignant assertion of themselves. Human nature was not confined to the hon. Member for the Abercromby division. It was conceivable that those in whose ears were still ringing "Chin Chin, Chinaman," and that blasphemous song about the Rand, might also occasionally appeal to human nature to justify some of the things they thought and felt. The hon. Member, after his appeal to human nature, had gone on to make one of those round assertions in which he sometimes indulged. He spoke of the "ghastly failure." [MINISTERIAL Cheers.] Yes; but there was some evidence on the other side. There were three large parties in the Transvaal who approached this question from at least as disinterested a point of view as the hon. and gallant Member.

MR. DILLON (Mayo, E.) asked whether the right hon. and gallant Gentleman was in order in discussing the whole question.

*THE CHAIRMAN said the right hon. and gallant Gentleman was not in order, and he could not on the Supplementary Vote discuss the general question of Chinese labour.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY asked whether he was to understand that he was absolutely precluded from replying to the hon. and gallant Member who had made his speech.

*THE CHAIRMAN said he did not hear the speech of the hon. and gallant Member for the Abercromby Division, but he could not allow the right hon. and gallant Gentleman to discuss what was out of order.

COLONEL KENYON-SLANEY congratulated the hon. and gallant Member for the Abercromby Division upon having got in a speech which was out of order. With regard to the speech of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, he appeared to be in extreme difficulties. The crux of the debate lay in the challenge thrown down by the hon. Member for the Newbury Division and the hon. and gallant member for the Abercromby Division, who desired to know what the Government would do if the new Transvaal Government proposed to retain Chinese labour as it now existed Of course in face of that query the Under-Secretary for the Colonies was bound to sit a little uneasy in his saddle and do a little bit of shuffling in order to get out of the corner. The hon. and gallant Member for the Abercromby Division had laid down, in that positive semi-military fashion which belonged to a distinguished volunteer, that this experiment "must and shall" come to an end. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies replied that he could not prophesy as to what would be the mind either of this Government or the Transvaal Government in time to come. Surely he must have known what the character of the Transvaal Government would be. He would like to know definitely what the hon. Member and his Government would do if the position taken up by the new Transvaal Government was unfavourable to their views. To that question they had received no answer, and they would get no answer. They all knew that the Government in this country would not be able to interfere with the responsible Government of the Transvaal, and therefore they would not be able to fulfil the pledges which they had given to the electors.

MR. CHURCHILL said that the right hon. Gentleman the Member for Shropshire had, in a friendly manner, accused him of not answering some clear and pointed questions which had been put to him. He thought the right hon. Gentleman would be ready to recognise that it was incumbent upon a Minister speaking in debate to observe most strictly the rules of order. They were now discussing a Supplementary Estimate which dealt with the past, and it would, therefore, be disorderly for him to enter into the realm of speculation as to what might happen in the future. The hon. Baronet the Member for the City of London had asked some questions which were strictly relevant to the Vote, and appropriate to a discussion in Committee of Supply, and he thought he could give a satisfactory answer to them. He quite agreed with what the hon. Baronet had said about the importance of avoiding Supplementary Estimates. That view was strongly held by the supporters of the present Government when in opposition, during the closing years of the last Parliament, for good and sufficient reasons, and the Government were certainly endeavouring to practice in office what they preached in opposition. Really, he did not think that the very small Estimate they were asked to pass lent itself to any very serious charge. The only apparent error was under-estimating to the amount of £5,000. None of the other items could be avoided, because they were entirely new matters which had arisen since the general Estimates were presented to the House. He did not think it was at all a serious charge against the Colonial Office that they had to come to Parliament and ask for £32,000, not merely in regard to under-estimation, but also to meet the cost of new services which had arisen in different parts of the British Empire. With regard to the question asked about the total cost of the repatriation of Chinese coolies, the sum of £20,187 had been actually spent. The sum of £87 18s. 11d. had been advanced to coolies, and had not been recovered at the date of repatriation. Against that expenditure they had obtained contributions from the coolies amounting to £305 14s., and £629 3s. 2d. from their wages, which gave a total credit balance of £934 17s. 2d. The net cost of the coolies repatriated up to 31st January, 1907, was £19,340 1s. 9d., so that the Committee would see that they were keeping a small sum back for the remaining weeks of the financial year. He had been asked whether any of this expenditure included compensation to the mine-owners for breach of contract. In reply to that he wished to point out to the Committee that in repatriating these Chinese coolies they had proceeded under a section in the Ordinance which enabled a coolie to return to his own country if he was able to pay a certain sum of money. No part of this money had been expended otherwise than in the necessary expenses of transportation. Passing to the flax-growing industry in St. Helena, the Government did not anticipate any difficulty in finding a market for any flax that they could grow, or for the waste products of the industry. Until June, 1905, there was a steamer service between the United Kingdom and the West Indies and also an intercolonial service, which was maintained by a contribution of £24,000 a year from all the Colonies, including Trinidad and Jamaica, and a grant of nearly £60,000 a year from the Imperial Exchequer. After that arrangement lapsed, a period ensued when no subsidy was paid, The Royal Mail Company protested and threatened to withdraw their boats, and on 16th August last year, therefore, a very modest new arrangement was entered into. That arrangement was a great gain to the British Exchequer. It was arranged that the Royal Mail Company should maintain their trans-Atlantic service without any subsidy, but that they should be paid for one colonial boat moving up and down the islands for intercolonial trade at the rate of £17,500 annually. Of that annual subsidy £8,750 was to be contributed, under their arrangement, by the Colonies, exclusive of Trinidad and Jamaica, who had other arrangements. The remaining £8,750 had to be paid by the British Government. It would be seen that they had made a thrifty arrangement compared with what had obtained before. He did not know whether that was a position which they would be able to maintain That was a matter of future policy to which he should not be in order in referring. He expressed the hope that the Committee would now see its way to come to a conclusion on this very small Vote on the discussion of which they had been engaged all the afternoon.

MR. BOWLES (Lambeth, Norwood) said he quite agreed with the Under-Secretary for the Colonies that a Vote of this character under present circumstances ought, perhaps, most properly to be regarded from a purely financial point of view, and in anything he had to say to the Committee with regard to it he proposed to deal with it from that standpoint. The money involved in the Supplementary Estimate was not large, but the hon. Gentleman would agree with him that the principle involved in coming at this period of the financial year for any considerable sum at all for ordinary departmental purposes was one of importance which deserved serious consideration at the hands of the Committee, and particularly at the hands of hon. Gentlemen opposite, who were pledged to the most rigid and austere economy. The two hon. Members who had spoken on the Ministerial side of the House, had complained not that the money now asked was too much, but that if anything it was too little. He was rather astonished that hon. Gentlemen who, when in opposition, said again and again that Supplementary Estimates were excrescences upon our financial system and ought to be regarded with suspicion, should have complained that this Estimate was too small. He regarded every Supplementary Estimate with genuine suspicion. The whole of our system depended upon accurate and careful Estimates. It had been upon the faith of the Estimate that the Committee voted the original £32,000, and he said without any qualification that the original Estimate ought not to be departed from except upon clear, grave, and urgent emergency. In the Vote now before the Committee it appeared to him that they had an extremely bad case of bad estimating. The sum of £32,000 now asked for represented 100 per cent. on the original Estimate. If that could be carried on to any extent the hon. Gentleman would see that they would be face to face with a serious situation. This demand could only be justified by alleging that there had been some serious emergency which the Government could not have foreseen when the original Estimate was presented. The Under-Secretary for the Colonies had not alleged that there was anything of immediate and urgent importance. Was the grant-in-aid of St. Helena to relieve immediate and urgent starvation on the part of the inhabitants? No, the hon. Gentleman had told the Committee that it was to form part of a scheme which would take years to come to full fruition. The money was to be used to erect buildings and machinery, and the hon. Gentleman had come down in a great hurry at the end of the year and asked for this sum in a Supplementary Estimate. There was no emergency to justify the demand. The real truth was that the hon. Gentleman representing the Colonial Office asked for this money because he was aware that the Chancellor of the Exchequer had at this moment a considerable surplus to whittle away. A surplus from the financial point of view might be regarded as an error, not so bad as an error in the shape of a deficit, but still a financial error. A surplus would go automatically to the reduction of the National Debt, but what was now proposed was that this £32,000 should be provided not out of the ordinary revenue, as it might perfectly well be, and not out of the ordinary Estimates of the next financial year, but out of the surplus which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had, and so out of the fund available for the reduction of the National Debt. He said with great respect that infinitely the greatest financial necessity at this moment was the reduction of the enormous burden of the National Debt, and therefore anything which interfered with that reduction ought to be regarded with the greatest possible jealousy. The Chancellor of the Exchequer would agree with him in that, for the other day, speaking in this House on old age pensions, the right hon. Gentleman said that so far as he was concerned the devotion of the realised surplus to the reduction of debt was a purpose from which he would never ask Parliament to depart. The right hon. Gentleman could not have it both ways. In having agreed to this Supplementary Estimate he was asking Parliament to vote money which otherwise would be part of the realised surplus. The question for the Committee was whether from a financial point of view this £32,000 had better be spent on the various purposes to which it was to be applied, or to the extinction of debt. He had not the slightest doubt as to which was the better and sounder destination of the money. He did not think the Under-Secretary for the Colonies had shown any emergency for intercepting this money, and on that ground he objected to the Vote altogether. The grant of £4,070 to St. Helena was to be subject to audit, but no balance was to be surrendered to the Exchequer. He should like to ask the Government what was the meaning of that. The only object of an audit by the Comptroller and Auditor-General was to insure that money had been spent in accordance with the direction of the House, and that any money which had not been spent should be surrendered to the Exchequer to go to the reduction of debt. This audit was perfectly useless and meaningless, and the only reason he could think of for inducing the Government to arrange for such an audit to take place was to lead the Committee to suppose that some sort of control would continue to be exercised over the money, whereas, as a matter of fact, no surrender was to be made, and no such control would exist. The same remark applied to the grant in aid of the Imperial Institute Fund. He had always understood that a grant-in-aid was a free gift, and he could not understand why the Government had seen fit not only to pay over the money in full but to see that it was audited, while making no provision for the surrender of any unexpended balance. He hoped before the Committee went to a division the Government would be able to give some explanation of the principle on which they provided for the audit of these sums, though no surrender was to be made to the Exchequer.

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 312; Noes, 81. (Division List No. 22.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork,N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen,A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Asquith,Rt Hon.HerbertHenry
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,Sir J.H(Essex,Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L.(Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner,Rt HnSirJ.T(Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn.SydneyCharles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton,Rt Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats,Sir T. Glen(Renfrew,W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins,Sir WmJ(S.Pancras,W.)
Corbett,C.H (Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.

Mr. Bowles.

Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh,S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C.(Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne,Major E.Martin(Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone,Rt Hn.HerbertJohn
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Greenwood, G. (Peterborough)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie,J.Keir (MerthyrTydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W.E.(Derbyshire,N.E.
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson,J.M.(Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert,Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.)
Higham, John Sharp

Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones,Sir D.Brynmor(Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kinnedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese,Sir Joseph F.(Accrington
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H.(Cheshire,Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald,J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacNeill, John Gordon Swift
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh,Jeremiah (Down,S.
MacVeigh,Charles(Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks,G.Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.

Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary, Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Sraffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott (Bradf'rd
Robertson, J. M. (Tyneside)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H (Ashton under Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, 1.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, Sir Edward (Salisbury
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson J.W.H (Somerset E
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Vivian, Henry
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Ordney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hon. Sir H.
Balcarres, Lord
Baldwin, Aflred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J. (City Lond.)
Balfour, Capt. C. B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J. A (Worc.
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, Sir Fred Dixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kennaway, Rt. Hon. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon. Col. W.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Scott, Sir S. (Marylebone, W.)
Smith, Abel H. (Hertford, East)
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W Mitchell-(Lanark)
Tuke, Sir John Batty

Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Sir Alexander Acland-Hood and Mr. Forster.

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £31,470, be granted for the said Service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 78; Noes, 313. (Division List No. 23.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. HnSirAlexF.
Anson, Sir William Reynell
Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hn. Hugh O.
Ashley, W. W.
Aubrey-Fletcher, Rt. Hn. SirH
Baldwin, Alfred
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A. J (CityLond.)
Balfour, Capt. C.B. (Hornsey)
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bignold, Sir Arthur
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hn. J. H. M.
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Evelyn (Aston Manor)
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Chamberlain, Rt. Hn. J A (Worc.)
Coates, E. Feetham (Lewisham)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H. A. E.
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount
Dixon-Hartland, SirFredDixon
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, R. (Lanark, Govan)
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H.B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F (BurySt. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Kennaway, Rt. Hn. Sir John H.
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hn. Col. W.
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Liddell, Henry
Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. Alfred
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore JohnThrogmorton
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Ratcliff, Major R. F.
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Sassoon, Sir Edward Albert
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, RtHn. J. G. (Oxf'dUniv.)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark)
Tuke, Sir John Batty
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson, A. Stanley (York, E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Captain Craig and Viscount Castlereagh.

NOES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Asquith, Rt. Hon. HerbertH.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamlets, S. Geo.)
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, SirJ. H. (Essex, Romf'rd)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, RtHnSirJ. T (Cheshire)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. SydneyChas.
Byles, Wiliam Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn. RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hn. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras, W.)
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Corbett, CH (Sussex, E. Grinst'd)
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cox, Harold
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, MajorE. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher

Foster, Rt. Hn. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gooch, George Peabody
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hn. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Haldane, Rt. Hon. Richard B.
Halpin, J.
Harcourt, Rt. Hon. Lewis
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, NE)
Harwood, George
Halsam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, H. A. (Donegal, W.)
Leese, Sir J. F. (Accrington)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hn. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Chas. Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk Bghs)
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, D. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S)
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W. Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n)
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Chas. H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G Scott (Bradf'rd)
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rogers, F. E. Newman
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H. (Ashton-under-Lyne
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon,, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stanger, H. Y.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, Sir Edw. (Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H (Somerset, E.
Thorne, William
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J
Waring, Walter
Warner, Thomas Courtenay T.
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

Mr. CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER claimed, "That the Original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 303; Noes, 61. (Division List No. 24.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Acland, Francis Dyke
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bellairs, Carlyon
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Benn, Sir J. Williams (Devonp'rt
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell, Sir J. H (Essex, Romf'rd)
Billson, Alfred
Birrell, Rt. Hon. Augustine
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Branch, James
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J. T (Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Buckmaster, Stanley O.
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Buxton, Rt. Hn. Sydney Charles
Byles, William Pollard
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Causton, Rt. Hn Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Churchill, Winston Spencer
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Coats, Sir T. Glen (Renfrew, W.)
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir Wm. J. (S. Pancras, W)
Corbett, C H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd)
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crooks, William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dewar, John A. (Inverness-sh.)
Dickson-Poynder, Sir John P.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness)
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Dunne, Major E. Martin (Walsall
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Grant, Corrie
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Griffith, Ellis J.
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Halpin, J.
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil)
Hardy, George A. (Suffolk)
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N.E.)
Harwood, George
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Col. Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobart, Sir Robert
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Hooper, A. G.
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Howard, Hon. Geoffrey
Hudson, Walter
Hutton, Alfred Eddison
Idris, T. H. W.
Isaacs, Rufus Daniel
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster)
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Law, Hugh A. (Donegal, W.)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Levy, Maurice
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Lynch, H. B.
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk Bg'hs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
Macpherson, J. T.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.)
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Kenna, Rt. Hon. Reginald
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M'Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Mallet, Charles E.
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. G.

Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morgan, J. Lloyd (Carmarthen)
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Newnes, F. (Notts, Bassetlaw)
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
O'Brien, Kendal(Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James(Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Donnell, C. J. (Walworth)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James(Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs., Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford, E.)
Rainy, A. Holland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E.(Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas(W.Monm'th)
Richards, T. F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Richardson, A.

Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robertson, Sir G. Scott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rose, Charles Day
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Samuel, S. M. (Whitechapel)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A. H(Ashton under Lyne)
Sears, J. E.
Seaverns, J. H.
Seddon, J.
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Spicer, Sir Albert
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Straus, B. S. (Mile End)
Strauss, E. A. (Abingdon)
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, Austin (East Toxteth)
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Tennant, Sir Edward(Salisbury)
Tennant, H. J. (Berwickshire)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred(Merthyr)

Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E.
Torrance, Sir A. M.
Toulmin, George
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walsh, Stephen
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Sir John L. (Leeds, S.)
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Wardle, George J.
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Waterlow, D. S.
Watt, H. Anderson
Wedgwood, Josiah C.
Weir, James Galloway
Whitbread, Howard
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, J. W. (Worcestersh. N.)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel
Yoxall, James Henry

TELLERS FOR THE AYES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt Hn. Sir Alex. F.
Ashley, W. W.
Baldwin, Alfred
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.)
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Bowles, G. Stewart
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Butcher, Samuel Henry
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cavendish, Rt. Hon. Victor C. W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain James(Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Dalrymple, Viscount

Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark, Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hambro, Charles Eric
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hervey, F. W. F. (Bury S. Edm'ds
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Kenyon-Slaney, Rt. Hon Col. W.
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Mason, James F. (Windsor)

Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Middlemore, John Throgmorton
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Smith, Hon. W. F. D. (Strand)
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Talbot, Rt. Hn. J. G (Oxf'd Univ.
Thomson, W Mitchell-(Lanark)
Vincent, Col. Sir C. E. Howard
Walker, Col. W. H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Stanley Wilson and Mr. Hicks-Beach.

CLASS VII.

2. Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a Supplementary sum, not exceeding £10,000, be granted to His Majesty, to defray the Charge which will come in course of payment during the year ending on the 31st day of March, 1907, for the Salaries and other Expenses of Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries.

MR. LYTTELTON asked whether there was any intention on the part of the Government to publish at any time the Report of the West Ridgeway Committee. Hon. Members would remember the circumstances under which the Committee was formed. The Prime Minister declared in this House in answer to a Question that the information with regard to South Africa was so woefully lacking that in order to supply to the Government the necessary information, a Committee had been appointed to proceed to the Transvaal and the Orange Colony in order that investigations might be made and information given to the Government on the facts that were relevant to the grant of the new Constitution. That Committee was comprised of three Members, two of whom—he had a very great respect for them—were declared supporters of the Government. It would have been of great assistance to this House and to the country in making up its mind as to whether responsible Government should be given to the Transvaal if this Report had been published for the information not merely of the Government, but of the whole of the people of the country, whose interest in this matter was of the most vital character. The Government appeared to be somewhat reckless of expenditure on Commissions, but when that expenditure had been made, it appeared not an uncommon practice to withhold from the people the result of the expenditure. There was a singular contrast in this regard without going outside South Africa to be found in the policy of the Government who sent out at the public expense what he believed to be the inaccurate speeches of the Under-Secretary for the Colonies, speeches which were not avowed by his political chief, and the policy of the same Government in sending out to South Africa for the information of the public impartial men and concealing that information when obtained. He thought these matters required explanation. In a matter so vital as the granting of a Constitution to a Colony such information ought not to be withheld, and the people in the Transvaal who gave evidence before the Committee with closed doors had a right to complain that the document which embodied that evidence and the inferences drawn from it was not checked by them in order to see that the conclusions drawn were correct. In order to put himself in order he moved to reduce the Vote by £100.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That a sum, not exceeding £9,900, be granted for the said Service."—(*Mr. Lyttelton.*)

MR. CHURCHILL said he did not think the Committee ought to have any difficulty in agreeing to a Vote for a sum of money required to pay the expenses of the West Ridgeway Committee in South Africa, and he had some confidence that the Committee would support the Government in that respect. The right hon. Gentleman had on various occasions asked the Government to publish this Report. That Commission was sent out for the special purpose of obtaining information for the Government to enable the Government to make up its mind as to the Constitutional settlement which was afterwards to be prepared. The Committee discharged their work with great fairness, they heard a large number of witnesses, and they afforded the Government the benefit of their conclusions on the whole field of South African policy. He did not say there was not a great deal in their Report which could have been published without causing any embarrassment to any person or any party, or without disturbing the development of the South African Colonies; but the right hon. Gentleman would see that a Report upon the political situation in a country so perplexed and distracted as the Transvaal in the period of recovery from the confusion and disaster of a great war must necessarily contain many statements about persons and parties, which would be of value to the Government, but which ought not to be made public. There were in the Report statements as to the character and political objects of all the different political associations in South Africa, and he did not think the right hon. Gentleman would seriously suggest that it would be a good thing in the critical months we had been, and were now, passing through in South Africa for the Government to throw on the Table a Report which stated the naked truth about all the different politicians and political Parties who were engaged in conflict on the eve of a momentous election. He was quite sure the Committee would agree that such a Report should be strictly confined to the purpose for which it was required—namely, to enable the Government to make up its mind on this subject. He did not say the day would never come when this Report could be published; but the Cabinet had decided that it had not yet come. Perhaps, when the difficulties in South Africa had become less, and when the healing process between the races had been further advanced, the Report would possess a purely historical value, and the right hon. Gentleman would be able to peruse it, and perhaps derive from that perusal as much advantage as the Government had already obtained. The right hon. Gentleman had suggested that this was a partisan Committee—that two of the three Members were avowed partisans of the Government.

MR. LYTTELTON: I said supporters.

MR. CHURCHILL: Well, a supporter was, after all, a modified partisan; he was a partisan in repose. He was quite sure there never were three gentleman who started on such business with a more complete and sincere desire to arrive at the truth; and testimony to that was borne by every one who had had to do with them. The value of their work must be judged by results. The Government had been able to frame a Constitution under which elections had taken place peacefully in a land only five years ago torn by civil war, and they had good reason for believing that the work begun on the basis of this Report would produce lasting benefit in South Africa. The present was not a Government which indulged in reckless expenditure on South Africa or in any other direction. It was their earnest desire to be prudent and thrifty in everything, and that no money should be needlessly spent on South Africa; because a great deal of money had been spent recklessly on interferences, not always very successful, in South Africa. He ventured to think that of all the immense sums of money contributed by this country in furtherance of South African policy no item could be more easily defended, or more completely deserved the unhesitating support of the House, than this small sum for a Committee which had laid the broad foundations for building up the unity and peace of South Africa.

*MR. ASHLEY said that before he dealt with the question of the South African Constitution Commission which was the *pièce de resistance* of this Estimate, he would like to know about the Metropolitan Police Commission, and when it was likely to conclude its labours and make its Report. He saw by the papers that it had held many sittings and had examined a great number of witnesses; and those interested were very anxious to know when the Commission would be able to issue its final Report. On the other question, it had been said truly that it would be unreasonable to publish the evidence given before the South African Committee, because a great many things had been said by the witnesses that ought not to be published. He agreed that the holding of the Committee with closed doors was in many ways perfectly right, because in the state of politics in the Transvaal it was not likely that the witnesses would have been able to remain unbiassed before the Committee if their evidence had been given in public, especially when responsible Government was to be given to the Colony. But he could not see why a summary of the evidence should not have been published. He, for one, protested against the House and the country being asked to authorise the expenditure of money on a Committee, when they were not suffered to see the result. Supporters of the Government when in Opposition said that the House of Commons had no control over expenditure, and that when they got into power they would curtail expenditure. They were now asked to spend £4,000 on this Committee, and not only had they been deprived of the benefit of the Report when they were discussing the question of the Transvaal Constitution, but they had also no guarantee that they would ever see it. In fact, they were told by the Prime Minister when the question was put to him that they were not to have the Report in discussing the Transvaal Constitution. On the 8th March last year,[†] the hon. and gallant Gentleman the Member for Central Sheffield asked the First Lord of the Treasury the following Question—

> "If, before any decision is arrived at regarding the future administration of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies, he will yield, as suggested, to the wish expressed by the High Commissioner on behalf of His

---

[†] See (4) *Debates*, cliii., 650.

Majesty's loyal subjects, and appoint an impartial Royal Commission to report on various important matters connected with the problem and the future peace and prosperity of the Colonies concerned?"

What was the answer of the Prime Minister?

"I cannot accept as accurate all the statements implied in this Question, and I do not quite understand what is meant by the future administration of the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies; nor do I know who are included in the phrase "His Majesty's loyal subjects." But putting these embroideries aside, as a matter of fact it is intended to send out a Committee to report on the actual results likely to be created by various proposals for the basis of a new Constitution, especially as affected by the numbers, distribution, and social condition of the population."

From the last sentence, it would be seen that it was not only, as the Under-Secretary seemed to think, to be a Report on the various political parties, their views and aspirations, but the Committee were to find out how the constituencies should be arranged, and what numbers of both races there were. The Under-Secretary had said that the Report could not be published because so much had been said about the aims and aspirations of political parties. If that were so, then, at any rate in the eyes of the Prime Minister, the Committee had gone outside the terms of its reference. There was no mention in the Answer which the Prime Minister gave on the 8th March last, that there was any idea of keeping the Report secret, and they had certainly imagined that the Report would be published. On 25th June, the Under-Secretary for the Colonies said the Report might be expected to be in the hands of the Government about the middle of July. When the Report was presented to the Government on the 23rd July, the right hon. Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, asked the Prime Minister whether he proposed to lay the Report of the Ridgeway Committee on the Table. The Prime Minister replied that the Report was necessarily confidential and for the information of the Government. Apparently, between March and July the Government had discovered that the Report must necessarily be of a confidential kind. Was it that they had found the conclusions of the Committee not to be such as they wished them to be in regard to their plan for the new Constitution in the Transvaal? The hon. Member for St. George's, Hanover Square, asked the Prime Minister whether the expenses of the Committee were not public expenses, whether the Committee was not appointed in the first instance to furnish information which the Government said they were deplorably lacking, and, whether he considered it fair, as the Committee sat with closed doors, to withhold from the House information before the debate took place on the Constitution of the Transvaal. That question summed up their feelings with regard to this matter. And then there was the remark of Lord Lansdowne, in the debate of the 31st July last. Lord Lansdowne said he had heard the rumour so persistently and freely circulated that he could not help mentioning it, that the Report of the Ridgeway Committee had only been signed on that day, the 31st July, the day on which the Government asked both Houses of Parliament to agree to the Constitution. Lord Lansdowne carefully guarded himself against saying that it was a fact. But what to his mind made the rumour very likely to be the fact was that Lord Ripon, when he answered Lord Lansdowne, did not say a word about it, and, therefore, his silence gave consent. If that were so, what an extraordinary state of things arose. The Government had apparently made up their minds before they saw the Report as to the Constitution they were going to give to the Transvaal and Orange River Colonies.

Mr. LLOYD-GEORGE rose in his place, and claimed to move, "That the Question be now put."

Question put, "That the Question be now put."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 237; Noes, 48. (Division List No 25.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, J. A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.

Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'rHamletsS.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,SirJH.(Essex,Romf'rd)
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J.F. L. (Lancs.,Leigh)
Brunner, Rt.HnSirJT(Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Causton, Rt.HnRichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Collins, Sir W. J. (S. Pancras,W
Corbett, C.H(Sussex,EGrinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, A. (Edinburgh, S.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hn. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herb. John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius

Halpin, J.
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire,NE
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, JM(Aberdeen,W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon.,S.
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson.
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Idris, T. H. W.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. B. (Swansea)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, Wm. (Carnarvonshire)
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
Kincaid-Smith, Captain
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Enmund G, (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire,Wirral)
Lewis, JohnHerbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hn. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M.(Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Chas. (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launcest'n
Massie, J.
Masterman, C. F. G.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry

O'Brien, K. (Tipperary Mid.)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, Jas. (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Connor, T. P. (Liverpool)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, Jas. (Roscommon, N.)
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinburgh,Central
Priestley, W.E.B.(Bradford,E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herb. H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, J. E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thos. (W.Monm'th)
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, SirGScott(Bradf'rd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V.H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herb. L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H(Ashton under Lyne)
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hn. T. (Hawick, B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thos. F. (Leitrim, S.)
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, J. W. (Durham)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.
Thompson,JWH (Somerset, E.
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason, John Cathcart(Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)

Williams, L. (Carmarthen)
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Ashley, W. W.
Banbury, Sir Fredk. George
Barrie, H.T.(Londonderry, N.)
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh H.
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hn. Thos. H.A.E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig, Captain Jas. (Down, E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hn. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert(Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Middlemore, J. Throgmorton
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Rawlinson, John F. Peel
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomas, David A. (Merthyr)
Thomson, W. Mitchell-(Lanark
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson, A. Stanley (York,E.R.
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Alexander Acland - Hood and Mr. Forster.

Question put accordingly, "That a sum, not exceeding £9,900, be granted for the said service."

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 45; Noes, 238. (Division List No. 26.)

AYES.

Acland-Hood,Rt.H Sir Alex,F.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn.Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Captain James (Down,E.
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert (Lanark,Govan
Faber, George Denison (York)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Forster, Henry William
Gibbs, G. A. (Bristol, West)
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Magnus, Sir Philip
Middlemore,JohnThrogmorton
Rawlinson,John Frederick Peel
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W.Mitchell- (Lanark)
Walker,Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wilson,A.Stanley (York,E.R.)
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B.Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Ayes—Viscount Helmsley and Mr. Ashley.

NOES.

Abraham,William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A.(Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn,W.(T'w'r Hamlets,S.Geo.
Berridge, T. H. D.
Bethell,Sir J.H. (Essex,R'mf'd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner,J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner,Rt.Hn.SirJT(Cheshire
Bryce, J. Annan
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Causton,Rt.Hn.RichardKnight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett,C.H.(Sussex,E.Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar,Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.

Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Halpin, J.
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W.E. (Derbyshire, N.E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Idris, T. H. W.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh.
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominster
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Macdonald, J.M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Partington, Oswald
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central)
Priestley, W.E.B. (Bradford, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford)
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, Thomas (W. Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, Sir G Scott (Br'df'ord
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick, B.
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowdon, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thompson, J. W. H. (Somerset, E
Toulmin, George
Verney, F. W.
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent)
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel

TELLERS FOR THE NOES—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

MR. LLOYD-GEORGE claimed, "That the original Question be now put."

Original Question put accordingly.

LORD R. CECIL (Marylebone, E.)—speaking, according to custom, seated and with his hat on—said that as it was a fundamental principle of the Constitution that before money was granted Members had the right to raise any question in order on the grant, he desired to know what opportunity they would have for discussing the Poor Law Commission, part of the expenses of which was included in the Vote?

THE CHAIRMAN: The question of the noble Lord is not really a point of order at all. The closure is a matter in my discretion.

SIR F. BANBURY asked whether the question of the noble Lord was not a question of privilege, and therefore one that ought to be answered.

THE CHAIRMAN: Under the system of Supply in this House many questions are from time to time put without discussion.

The Committee divided:—Ayes, 236; Noes, 43. (Division List No. 27.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Cork, N.E.)
Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Alden, Percy
Allen, Charles P. (Stroud)
Armitage, R.
Astbury, John Meir
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.)
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Beauchamp, E.
Beck, A. Cecil
Bell, Richard
Bellairs, Carlyon
Benn, W. (T'w'r Hamlets, S. Geo.
Berridge, T. H D.
Bethell, Sir J. H. (Essex, Romf'rd
Billson, Alfred
Black, Arthur W.
Boulton, A. C. F.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.
Brooke, Stopford
Brunner, J. F. L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Brunner, Rt Hn Sir J. T. (Chesh'e
Bryce, J. Annan
Burke, E. Haviland-
Burnyeat, W. J. D.
Byles, William Pollard
Causton, Rt. Hn. Richard Knight
Cawley, Sir Frederick
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.
Clarke, C. Goddard
Clough, William
Clynes, J. R.
Collins, Stephen (Lambeth)
Corbett, C. H (Sussex, E. Grinst'd
Cotton, Sir H. J. S.
Cowan, W. H.
Cremer, William Randal
Crombie, John William
Crossley, William J.
Cullinan, J.
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, Timothy (Fulham)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.
Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir Charles
Dillon, John
Dobson, Thomas W.
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Donelan, Captain A.
Duckworth, James
Duffy, William J.
Dunn, A. Edward (Camborne)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ffrench, Peter
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Foster, Rt. Hon. Sir Walter
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Ginnell, L.
Gladstone, Rt. Hn. Herbert John
Glendinning, R. G.
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Halpin, J.
Harmsworth, Cecil B. (Worc'r)
Harvey, W. E. (Derbyshire, N. E.
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hazel, Dr. A. E.
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, J. M. (Aberdeen, W)
Henry, Charles S.
Herbert, Colonel Ivor (Mon., S.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hobhouse, Charles E. H.
Hogan, Michael
Holden, E. Hopkinson
Holland, Sir William Henry
Hooper, A. G.
Idris, T. H. W.
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, John (Gateshead)
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Sir D. Brynmor (Swansea
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonsh'e
Joyce, Michael
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kennedy, Vincent Paul
Kilbride, Denis
King, Alfred John (Knutsford)
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Edmund G. (Leominst'r
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lambert, George
Lehmann, R. C.
Lever, W. H. (Cheshire, Wirral)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. David
Lough, Thomas
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Macdonald, J. R, (Leicester)
Macdonald, J. M. (Falkirk B'ghs
Maclean, Donald
Macnamara, Dr. Thomas J.
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.)
M'Callum, John M.
M'Crae, George
M'Kean, John
M'Killop, W.
M'Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launcest'n)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montagu, E. S.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morton, Alpheus Cleophas
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Nolan, Joseph
Norton, Capt. Cecil William
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary Mid
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, James (Wicklow, W.)
O'Connor, John Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Kelly, James (Roscommon, N.
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Paul, Herbert
Pearce, Robert (Staffs. Leek)
Philipps, Owen C. (Pembroke)
Pickersgill, Edward Hare
Pirie, Duncan V.
Pollard, Dr.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C. E. (Edinb'gh, Central
Priestley, W. E. B. (Bradford, E.)
Rainy, A. Rolland
Raphael, Herbert H.
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rees, J. D.
Rendall, Athelstan

Richards, Thomas (W.Monm'th
Richardson, A.
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Robertson, Sir G.Scott (Bradf'd
Robinson, S.
Robson, Sir William Snowdon
Rowlands, J.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Samuel, Herbert L. (Cleveland)
Schwann, C. Duncan (Hyde)
Scott,A.H.(Ashton-under-Lyne
Seely, Major J. B.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr.John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim, S.
Snowden, P.
Soares, Ernest J.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Strachey, Sir Edward
Sullivan, Donal
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas,Sir A. (Glamorgan, E.)
Thomas, DavidAlfred (Merthyr
Thompson,J.W.H.(Somerset, E
Toulmin, George
Wadsworth, J.
Waldron, Laurence Ambrose
Walker, H. De R. (Leicester)
Walters, John Tudor
Walton, Joseph (Barnsley)
Ward, John (Stoke-upon-Trent
Waring, Walter
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan
Wason,John Cathcart (Orkney)
Watt, H. Anderson
Weir, James Galloway
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whitehead, Rowland
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wiles, Thomas
Williams, J. (Glamorgan)
Williams,Llewelyn(Carmarth'n
Wills, Arthur Walters
Wilson, J. H. (Middlesbrough)
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras,S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. Whiteley and Mr. J. A. Pease.

NOES.

Acland-Hood,Rt Hn.SirAlex.F.
Ashley, W. W.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach,Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Beckett, Hon. Gervase
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Campbell, Rt. Hon. J. H. M.
Carlile, E. Hildred
Castlereagh, Viscount
Cave, George
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A.E.
Corbett, A. Cameron (Glasgow)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Craig,Captain James(Down,E.)
Craik, Sir Henry
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan,Robert (Lanark, Gov'n
Faber, G. H. (Boston)
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Forster, Henry William
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Hay, Hon. Claude George
Heaton, John Henniker
Helmsley, Viscount
Hills, J. W.
Houston, Robert Paterson
Hunt, Rowland
Law, Andrew Bonar (Dulwich)
Middlemore,John Throgmort'n
Rawlinson,John Frederick Pee
Rutherford, W. W. (Liverpool)
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Starkey, John R.
Stone, Sir Benjamin
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Thomson,W.Mitchell-(Lanark)
Walker,Col.W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wortley, Rt.Hon.C. B.Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Lord R.Cecil and Mr.George Gibbs.

And, it being after a quarter past Eight of the clock, the Chairman left the Chair to make his Report to the House.

Resolutions to be reported To-morrow; Committee to sit again To-morrow.

———

ECCLESIASTICAL ASSESSMENTS (SCOTLAND).

Mr. McCRAE (Edinburgh, E.) moved a Resolution declaring that the levying of compulsory assessments in Scotland for the purpose of defraying the cost of rebuilding or repairing churches or manses of a particular denomination was inequitable and unjust and ought to be abolished forthwith. This long standing grievance in regard to ecclesiastical assessments was, he said, altogether out of harmony with modern conditions, and added to this was the fact that these assessments were an imposition which was resented and the liability for which was repudiated by many for conscience' sake, as they were intended for churches and manses of the Established Church to which many who paid the assessments did not in any way belong. There were two classes of people who might object to this Motion. The first class consisted of bigoted Churchmen who clung to ancient privileges however oppressive they might be, and demanded their legal pound of flesh. The other class comprised the rabid Dissenters who wished to keep this question as an open sore for sectarian purposes. These two classes, he was glad to say, were in Scotland small in number and speedily diminishing in power and influence, and he did not think this House need consider them at all on the present occasion. He would, therefore, not waste time in meeting any objections which these two classes might raise. He intended to take a broad view of the system of ecclesiastial assessments and ask what the present system meant, and by the present system he meant the system as modified by the Act of 1900. Briefly, what were the assessments of which complaint was made? They were assessments for the Established Church of Scotland only. However beneficial the ministrations of any Free Church might be, however wide might be its sphere of usefulness, no assessments could be levied for carrying on its work. The Free Church might even have a majority of the parishioners in a parish, but it could not levy an assessment such as that complained of. An assessment of this kind might be levied for a church which had only a minority of the population as members. It could be readily understood how these assessments came to be made. In the old days the burden of maintaining the parish church and manse was imposed upon the heritors or landowners within the parish, and indeed the parish schools were so maintained in Scotland up to the passing of the Education Act of 1872. At the time these assessments were first imposed they were perfectly fair and reasonable. In those days every one did go, or was supposed to go, to the Established Church, and the assessment was perfectly fair and reasonable because it was believed to be for the benefit of the whole community. The assessment was made in the time of Cromwell on the valued rent, and it was revised at the time of the Restoration. Things went on until the Peterhead case in 1802, in which it was held that such assessments in burghs or in districts partly burghal and partly landward should be based on real rent. The position was further accentuated by the Valuation Act of 1854. In other words, buildings as well as land were to be assessed to defray the cost of re-building or repairing churches and manses of the Church of Scotland. As towns extended and buildings increased, people far removed from the church suddenly found themselves liable to an assessment for the re-building of a church to which they did not belong. Working men who had become owners of their houses, and who had no knowledge of any such liability were brought within the ecclesiastical net. This liability could not be estimated or foreseen as certain. Such assessments were now out of keeping with the spirit of the age, which demanded that taxation should be certain. Refusals to pay the assessments were frequent, and it was needless to say that scandals had occurred when an attempt was made to put the law into operation. In short, there were passive resisters for conscience' sake. The Church of Scotland itself, realising the gravity of the situation, tried in 1884 to pass a Bill through this House dealing with the subject, thereby acknowledging the existence of a grievance. That Bill provided that the assessments were to be levied on the old basis of valued rent which obtained prior to the Peterhead judgment. The Bill, however, did not pass; but in 1900 a Bill was passed designed to meet the grievance of the small feuar; by it the heritors at a meeting could decide that the assessments should be imposed on two-thirds of the valued rent instead of the real rent There was also an important provision by which a small feuar, whose rent did not exceed £50 in value, was to be altogether exempt, and those whose rent was above £50 had a deduction made of that amount. There was this condition, however, attached to that provision—that the Kirk Session of the parish church should undertake to make good the difference. He was not going to recite the long and painful struggles which had taken place in Scotland against these assessments. It was not a pleasant story. He, however, would take three cases only which had occurred since the passing of the Act of 1900. First, there was the Selkirk case, which took place in 1904. Repairs to the manse were undertaken at a cost of £2,000; and the imposition of the assessment for these repairs was resented. The border spirit was aroused and a burning sense of injustice ensued. The collection of the assessment was obtained only after bank accounts, rents, and wages had been arrested and actions at law were raised for the recovery of the assessment and the expenses. Four sturdy dissenters stood firm to the end, and their goods were seized to be put up for sale by public auction. All this happened, not in the middle of the 17th century, but in January, 1905. At the last moment some anonymous donor came forward and paid all the outstanding arrears of the assessment, so that the scandal of the public auction was avoided. The second case was that of Coldstream, a town of about 1,500 inhabitants. There were two United Free Churches in the town, and, if he was rightly informed, the majority of the people attended those two churches. The Established Church required re-building, and a scheme was brought forward shewing that it would involve an expense of £4,000, which was to be paid by the heritors or landowners in ten years by assessments of from 7d. to 9d. in the pound per annum. There were 146 heritors in the parish, and 100 of these were small feuars with rentals under £50, for whose benefit the Act of 1900 was really passed. The Kirk session, in spite of the recommendation of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland "to avoid friction, and take advantage of the Act of 1900," refused to assist in the building of their own church, and, so far as he knew, they still maintained that position, with the consequence that 100 small feuars who ought to be exempted from the payment of assessment, if the spirit of the Act of 1900 had been carried out, were assessed. The third case was that of South Leith Manse, which was raised last year. He had a personal interest in that case, because some 2,000 of his own constituents were involved, although they lived in Edinburgh, and not in South Leith where the church was situated. That came about because the old ecclesiastical parish of South Leith overlapped into East Edinburgh. The result was that 3,752 people were assessed for the repairs of the manse, of whom 1,722 lived in Leith, and 2,030 in Edinburgh. It was only fair to say that at a subsequent stage the Kirk session of South Leith undertook the relief of the small feuars, and to make good the difference as they were empowered to do under the Act of 1900. A bare recital of the facts disclosed a grave scandal. The cost of the repairs on the manse amounted to £522; but a roll had to be made up of the feuars, and the cost of the making up of that roll, together with the cost of collection, amounted to £408. The right hon. Gentleman the Secretary for Scotland, when a question was put to him last year, rather insinuated that that was not the state of matters; but he had in his hand a certified copy of the cost of collection and of making up the roll, and there could be no doubt about it. Then there were gratuities to certain officials, making up the total cost to £999. But that was not the whole story. If the whole had been paid that would have been equal to an assessment of one half-penny in the pound; but it was decided to impose an assessment of five-eighths of a penny. In other words £1,250 were raised to pay for alterations on the manse which cost £522. That showed that this system of compulsory assessments involved a grave injustice, and that it ought to be abolished altogether. That was the only remedy. Lord Balfour of Burleigh obtained a Return in the House of Lords in 1881, which showed that for the ten years to December 1879 £420,827 had been raised by these assessments, or an average of £42,000 a year. He had asked for a Return last year of the small feuars who had been called upon to pay the assessments with in the last ten years; but that Return had not yet been laid on the Table of the House. There, however, was a Report made to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 1897 for the ten years 1885 to 1895, and the amount of assessment raised in those years was £267,564, while the voluntary subscriptions amounted to £248,500. That was a very much smaller average than for the previous period. As to the position of the Church in this matter, he made bold to say that what she would lose in money she would gain in grace. She ought to depend on the liberalty of the Church of Scotland itself, and of the people of Scotland, for the means to carry on religious observances. He had had sent to him that afternoon, from a very distinguished Churchman, a state of the case as presented by an official of the Church of Scotland. All he could say was that the financial part of this document must surely have been compiled by some very junior assistant, who, to put the matter as mildly as he possibly could, did not understand the proper way to state figures. This document stated that the amount spent in rebuilding or repairing the churches of the Established Church for the decennial period amounted to £233,000, of which 77 per cent. was raised by voluntary effort. That was stating the case in an invidious way, because it left out of the account the sum spent on building and repairing the manse and of rebuilding the churches and the manses. The assessment imposed for these purposes during the same period was £26,000 against voluntary contributions of £65,000, and he maintained that that was not a fair way of stating the case, because, on a previous occasion, they referred to a Return granted by Lord Balfour of Burleigh, making the amount £42,000, and they disingenuously played upon the figure of £42,000 a year instead of £26,000. He had heard that a good many people were alarmed at this proposed abolition of assessment, because they said that by taking such a course Parliament would make a present to the landlords. He, however, was not alarmed on that score. The Government proposed to introduce a Valuation Bill, and in that Bill the lairds could be easily dealt with. He had already pointed out that the liability of land for the burden of maintaining the parish schools was abolished in 1872, and in 1868 Church rates in England were abolished under Mr. Gladstone's Bill. He would give one quotation from Mr. Gladstone's statement on that occasion, because it was peculiarly applicable to Scotland. Mr. Gladstone said—

> "I own my personal opinion is that for all practical purposes the Church of England would be greatly, not weakened, but strengthened and confirmed by removing wholly out of action and out of view all petty causes of irritation and disaffection such as those which arise from time to time in the attempt to administer the law of Church rates."

He thought that that was the opinion which ought to prevail in regard to Scotland. He had not declaimed against the state of things which existed in Scotland and which many thought to be a great injustice, and he had not drawn harrowing pictures of the scenes brought about by the imposition of these assessments. He had preferred to base his case on a simple statement of the facts, and he thought the time had come when the Government should deal with this matter. Last year he himself introduced a Bill dealing with the subject, but a private Member's Bill had very little chance of passing. He was glad to think, however, that at least one member of the Government, and that the member who had to reply, was pretty deeply committed in regard to this question, because he found that when the Bill of 1900 was before the House the Lord Advocate said—

> "I am in principle in favour of the total and immediate abolition of this assessment."

Now the right hon. Gentleman had an opportunity of redeeming that pledge, and he hoped the Government would see their way to introducing a Bill for the purpose. In conclusion he would say that he had a stronger reason than any which he had yet urged for the abolition of this assessment. There was at the present time a cessation of ecclesiastical strife in Scotland and a desire for closer unity among Presbyterian Churches. Unlike the case of England, there was no bar to such unity, and it was advised by the greatest thinkers and most influential leaders in religious matters. Rising men in the Church were more and more impressed with the absurdity of present divisions and wished to get rid of these artificial bars to unity. He claimed that this was a step in the direction of unity, and he was not without hope that the Churches themselves would agree on a basis of unity and come with the united demand to Parliament for ratification. For these reasons he moved the Resolution.

*MR. CROMBIE (Kincardineshire) seconded the Resolution and said that as a member of the Established Church of Scotland he did not regard the proposal as in any way hostile to that Church. If it were carried into effect he believed it would remove one of the most serious blots which existed on the dignity and usefulness of the Church of Scotland. He could not see why any opposition should be given to the Resolution, but wherever that opposition might come from he could not see how it could come from those who supported the late Conservative Government, because that Government so fully recognised the indignity to which the Church was being subjected that they themselves actually passed a Bill to remove these grievances. The grievances really originated from a House of Lords decision in a case relating to the Church of Scotland, and it seemed a curious thing that whenever the House of Lords interfered with a Scottish Church question it had the same result as when a cat was admitted to a cage full of canaries. It was so in regard to the Peterhead case of 1802. Under the decision of the House of Lords, not only large landlords but small feuars had been brought in, and this had led to a great scandal. It had given rise to passive resisters and to a condition of affairs which was detrimental to the Church of Scotland. This state of things existed till 1900, when the Conservative Government brought in a Bill to remedy it. If it had been a thorough-going Act and had abolished the assessments altogether there would have been no scandal, and his hon. friend and himself would not have been making their present—he hoped—eloquent appeal to the House. The

Act which the Conservative Government passed was a temporising one. The Government had not the courage of their convictions, and instead of putting the matter right they tried to hush it up. On that occasion he ventured to prophesy—it was a dangerous thing to prophesy especially when what one said was recorded in *Hansard*—that no such subscriptions as were contemplated would be raised to benefit the ratepayers. He was sorry to say that his prophecy had been more than justified. Let them take the case of Old Machar, in the neighbourhood in which he lived. It was necessary to make some repairs on the manse, but the small feuars objected. They said that inasmuch as the incumbent was a bachelor he ought not to have so many bedrooms, and they also said that the fittings should have been made of ash instead of oak, and having made these and other unseemly remarks they refused to pay their rates. The rates were small and it cost more than they were worth to collect them, and the levying of them created a scandal to the Church of Scotland which ought to be removed. He would point out that this was a Resolution and not a Bill, and he understood that the only objection on the other side of the House was that there would be some difficulty as to details. It was also said that it would involve giving money to the landlords. It was not often that they were accused on that side of the House of quixotically handing over money to landlords, and if this method were adopted it was possible that before the end of the session they might have an opportunity of wiping out that stain upon their escutcheon. There was a precedent for this proposal in the Bill of 1900, and for these reasons he had great pleasure in seconding this Resolution. As he had already explained he did so in no spirit of hostility to the Church of Scotland, but because he believed that so long as these assessments existed they would be detrimental to that Church.

Motion made, and Question proposed, "That the levying of compulsory assessments in Scotland for the purpose of defraying the cost of rebuilding or repairing churches or manses of a particular denomination is inequitable and unjust and ought to be abolished forthwith."—(*Mr. McCrae*).

*SIR HENRY CRAIK (Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities) said he envied the power of the mover and seconder of this Resolution of imparting interest to a question which did not appear to possess much of that quality to the outsider. They were so accustomed to their English colleagues saying that Scottish debates were of no interest, that it was quite refreshing to listen to two speeches, which he had the misfortune to follow, which invested the subject with so much vatility and freshness. It was not so abstruse a question, however, as their English colleagues might think. It was capable of clear exposition and also involved the interest of human nature showing itself in manifold directions which was calculated to raise the sympathy of many parts of the House. What were the simple facts? More than three centuries ago a certain assignment was made of property to the Church of Scotland. By a statute law which met the justice of the case as it then stood, the burden of supplying religious ordinances in a place where they could be carried on and a house for the teacher of those ordinances was laid upon the landlords. If they had regard to the history of Scotland it could not be said that the landlords were unjustly treated when it was a bargain struck between them and the Church. The Church of Scotland suffered heavily; its property went elsewhere, being transferred by not altogether scrupulous means to other hands. The burden was laid on the landlords and they were not now anxious to get rid of it. It was only by a decision of the House of Lords, a decision which the leading lawyers fully uphold, that the burden laid on the landowners, the heritors of Scotland, was transferred from them to a much lower class, which was much less able to bear the burden; a body varied in its constitution, much less homogeneous in its religious belief, and belonging to the numerous religious dissenting bodies which had sprung up round the Church. However just in law the decision was it gave rise to the inconvenience which had been felt since, but which had never been felt before. However serious the inconvenience might be, hon. gentlemen sitting opposite had the very last right to bring that up against them. The hon. Member for Kincardineshire had said it was quite impossible for any one on the Unionist benches to oppose this resolution after the policy put forward by the Conservative Government and the Conservative Party in past years. But they could retort with far more force that nothing could be more impossible for hon. Members opposite than to denounce in terms of great indignation an abuse which they had not found a remedy for and after consistently fighting against all attempts to remedy it. Between 1868 and 1889 seven Bills were brought in and each of those Bills was denounced in no measured terms by members opposite. They were told they were shuffling aside the real difficulty and getting rid of a liability that ought to remain on the people taxed; that the Bill was unjust because it sought to relieve those subjected to a fair and reasonable burden from that burden. He remembered in the discussion on the Bill of 1899 the Secretary of State for War said he would be no party to anything which would remove a burden which had existed for years and fell on every class of landowner, and that he objected to the Bill, not because it relieved everybody, but because it relieved some persons unjustly. Those were the persons who said this resolution would only be opposed by bigoted Churchmen who sought their pound of flesh, or rabid disestablishers. Had they not been endeavouring during the last twenty or thirty years to release these more impecunious ratepayers—those who might have less sympathy with the Church for which these endowments were made? And had they not been trying to do that in the teeth of the opposition of hon. Members opposite? Every argument that could be used was adduced to defeat their efforts and it was not until the year 1900 that a Bill was passed giving the relief demanded. The Bill released everyone to the extent of £50 of rental. The real object of it was not to relieve to a certain extent the richer or larger landlords, but to see that all those with less than £50 of rental should be relieved. They were now asked to consent to £42,000 a year being taken off the shoulders of the landlords. He confessed that in spite of these denunciations and although not antipathetic to the landlords, he was not prepared to put £42,000 into their pockets at the expense of the Church. He was inclined to say that if the landlords were wise they would take warning by the prophetic words of the hon. Member for Kincardineshire, who plainly foretold that this small gift would be made the stepping-stone to more serious plunders. They knew something of the intentions of the hon. Member for Edinburgh. He had given a clear indication of his proposals in the Bill brought forward last year. That Bill simply abolished all assessments for ecclesiastical purposes, and sought to provide no other application for this £40,000 or £50,000 a year, which was to be put into the pockets of the landlords. It was a strange attitude for hon. Gentlemen opposite, who were accustomed to denounce those who neither toiled nor spun, who lived on the unearned increment, and were the drags upon all advance, that they should now think it necessary to draw away from the Church of Scotland—from the Church which was the Church of the poor of Scotland—the means for providing religious ordinances and religious light in many a lonely highland valley where poverty reigned supreme. It was strange that they should transfer it to a class into which they promised, if their professions were worth anything, to have their knife sooner or later. According to a Return issued by the Church, 77 per cent. of the cost of building churches down to the year 1895 was borne by voluntary contributions in the churches, and only 23 per cent. by their assessors. If they put the whole burden of maintaining these religious fabrics upon voluntary subscribers and members of the Church, was the analogy exactly as close between England and Scotland as the hon. Member for Kincardineshire wished them to believe? In England the Church was vested in the rector or vicar, and was his property. In Scotland, the Church fabric was the property of the landowner or the heritors. The Church had no property whatever in the manse or in the churches of the country. They were proposing to sweep away completely from the Church what was its undoubted property, and to throw on the poor a burden which had hitherto fallen upon people who were ready to bear it, who were not anxious to be relieved of it, and who were only anxious to relieve their poorer brethren of it. They were taking

Sir Henry Craik.

this money out of the pockets of the Church, and asking the Church to provide those fabrics, which were to be the property of someone else, and over which they were to have no power as owners. So far from the tax being open to the epithets applied to it in the Resolution, those epithets were much more applicable to the proposals indicated by the hon. Member for Edinburgh and embodied in the Bill which he put before the House last year. He would say that that Bill was inequitable and unjust, that it ought not to become law, and that it would only become the law of the land at the cost of the poorer classes of Scotland, depriving them of the great privilege of a valuable public property.

MR. PIRIE (Aberdeen, N.) said that certain incidents, which had already been alluded to by the hon. Member for Kincardineshire, were useful as showing what had happened since the passing of the Act of 1900. His excuse for occupying the time of the House was the deep resentment and feeling of injustice which still existed in the minds of thousands of his constituents over this question of the manse in the parish of Oldmacher in Old Aberdeen. In 1903 this manse was assessed to a collection of £2,100 for its repairs or partial reconstruction, and in the collection of that sum no less than £700 expenses were incurred. How was that expense incurred? Mainly through the Act of 1900, by which feuars were assessed as heritors, with the result that there were from 6,000 to 7,000 of these heritors who had to be assessed to the collection. Most of these heritors had nothing whatever to do with the matter, for instead of residing in Old Aberdeen or near the church manse, which was situated in the city of Aberdeen, they were two or three miles away. They had no benefit from the ministrations of the ministers, and they had no idea at all, until the very last moment, that they were to be assessed. When they were called upon to pay there was naturally great dissatisfaction. It might interest the House to learn how the £700 spent in collecting the amount assessed was made up. Among the items were:—Statutory intimations to heritors of assessments, £81; scheme of division, £114; collection and administration of assessment, £149; second notice to heritors, £26; final notices, £35; legal proceedings, £47. Six heritors were summoned, and the goods of those who resisted were sold under execution. He thought he had said enough, therefore, to justify the deep resentment which still existed, though the incidents occurred some years ago. He put a Question last year to his right hon. friend the Secretary for Scotland calling attention to the case, and asking whether the Government intended to do anything. The right hon. Gentleman said that the Government were alive to the dissatisfaction with which these proceedings were regarded, but that they were not prepared to bring in a Bill. Last year, when told of the dissatisfaction and disapproval which existed, the Lord Advocate said that if the majority of Scottish Members were wise they would be content to go step by step on this question of ecclesiastical reform in Scotland, and devote all their energies to getting passed such a Bill as was introduced last year. Considering that ten to one, if not a greater majority, of Scottish Members were in favour of this reform he hoped that a Bill to bring it about would be taken in hand by the Government, and he believed that no greater measure of peace for the Church, both established and non-established, could be carried.

*MR. McCALLUM (Paisley) in addressing the House for the first time, said he knew full well that many Members around him were anxious to speak, and he would endeavour not to detain the House for more than a few minutes. He heartily approved of the Motion, which was one of great importance to Scotland. Two-thirds of the people of that country were believers in voluntaryism and supported their own ministers and built their own manses. The hon. Member for Aberdeen and Glasgow Universities spoke with considerable enthusiasm and great weight both on church and school matters, and they honoured him for his experience. But those who were acquainted with Scotland and ecclesiastical matters as well as he was, could scarcely bear out the statement that the Church of Scotland was the Church of the people.

In the Highlands three-fourths of the people worshipped in churches belonging not to the nation but to those who had contributed the funds for their erection. The hon. Member for Aberdeen and Glasgow Universities had said that the funds belonged to the Church of Scotland, but if there were time it would not be difficult to show that the funds belonged to the nation. That had been shown all through Scotland, and he hoped that when a change came greater than that proposed by the Resolution they would be able to show that fact fairly to the nation in seeking for disestablishment and disendowment on the basis of justice. The Resolution stated that this Church rate which they had had for well nigh 200 years, but especially within the last fifty-two years, was inequitable and unjust, and ought to be abolished. The hardship was manifestly very great. Those people who supported the voluntary principle, and built their own churches and manses, were yet called upon to build the manses of those who attended the parish church. How did the parish churches support their ministers? They did not contribute one farthing to their support. They in no wise helped to make them live better and nobler lives by adding to their comforts and by contributing to their salaries. Was it not very hard that those outside, who did all this for themselves, should be asked to help those who did nothing of the kind? He would give one or two examples of what he meant. In the borough of Paisley they had thirty-four dissenting churches, and seven parish churches. In 1882 they had the manse tax for the repair of the Abbey Manse, which cost £2,820. A number of people objected to pay on conscientious grounds. Time after time threatening notices were issued, and proceedings were taken against five who objected. These proceedings were withdrawn within the next three days, because it was seen that they were working on dangerous ground. Those who took the action against the objectors were advised by friends that they had better pay the balance out of their own pockets, so that upwards of 200 of the objectors did not pay the tax. He believed that was the origin of the Bill of 1884. The question had been asked—What is a heritor? On this point a well-known authority wrote—

> "Who were the heritors of the parish? The landowners of the parish certainly. He read the definition of the term given in the latest edition of "Chambers' Encyclopædia" published three years ago —'Heritor, in the law of Scotland is the owner of land in a parish, liable to public burdens. The heritors, collectively, have vested in them the fee of the church and churchyard. They repair the parish church or manse or rebuild them where necessary.' It was in that sense that the term 'heritor' had been used for hundreds of years in Scotland, and it was something new for the parishioners of Selkirk to learn, 237 years after the Act of Charles II. was passed, that all of them who were proprietors of houses in the burgh and parish were heritors. The Court, by immemorial usage, ruled that each set of heritors should bear the half of the expense in future. Immemorial usage, in the case of Selkirk, had gone for nothing, in their counsel's opinion, which was a little surprising. Then there was the question of equity, which, in a case where a religious institution was concerned, should not be disregarded. Let them see how the attempted change would work. Ten years ago, there was a piece of waste ground in Dunsdale Haugh, which was not worth more than £2 or £3 a year. Fortunately for Selkirk an enterprising firm feued that ground, covered it with mills and other buildings, and filled the mills with machinery. That firm had been paying the sum of £19 16s. 4d. yearly as feu duty to the burgh, and would be paying a good deal more by and by. The mills and machinery stood on the valuation roll at £750, and the firm was called on to pay an assessment of 1s. 1½d. per £ on that amount. Was it reasonable, equitable, or just that the land should go practically free and that the mills and buildings and machinery should have to bear an assessment of £42 3s. 9d. for repairing the parish manse? He thought there could be but one answer to that question. Again, during the forty years that had elapsed since the parish church was built, the people of other religious denominations had provided churches for themselves, and manses for some of the ministers, at a cost of £17,000 or £18,000. If the people in Selkirk had provided churches and manses, was it reasonable, equitable, or just, that the same community should be called upon to pay two-thirds of the cost of a manse to the parish church, whose members were more able to pay for it than the members of any other church in town?"

In this instance, in Paisley, it was the wealthiest church in the town, and yet those attending it had not contributed a single farthing to the stipends of their two ministers. They had to go outside the church for this tax to carry out their legal obligations, although they could have carried out their moral obligations by paying every farthing themselves. He cordially supported the Resolution because he believed that it proceeded on the right lines. This was the fringe of a greater question, it was part of a great case of privilege, and the sooner they made progress with it the sooner they would be able to proceed with disestablishment and disendowment, [OPPOSITION cries of "Oh."] What they wanted he believed, was free land, a free church, and free schools. The rates levied in Scotland during the ten years up to 1879, amounted to £420,000, and no less than £219,000 had been collected in this way during the past nine years. Under these circumstances he appealed to the House to support this Resolution because the abolition of these compulsory assessments would prove an unmixed blessing to the people of Scotland.

*MR. MITCHELL-THOMSON (Lanarkshire, N.W.) said the speech to which they had just listened was of special significance as pointing out that the counsel, which the mover and seconder had no doubt quite sincerely given to the Church, was approved by the opponents of the Church as a step on the road to disestablishment and disendowment. He did not wish to dwell upon the historical position of this question, because that point had been very ably dealt with by his hon. and learned friend. He believed above all things that the Church of Scotland was for Scotland the national Church, that the religion preached in that Church was the national religion, and that her ministers were regarded as doing the nation's work. The churches and manses for which these assessments were levied were the property not of the Church of Scotland but of the heritors of the localities. The assessments were the result of the long historical association which cast upon the owners of land the duty which in 1572 became a statutory duty of maintaining the fabric of the parish church. He admitted that the friction which had arisen in the past was because of the decision given in the Peterhead case, but the advocates of disestablishment and disendowment had made use of the grievance in order to inflame public feeling against the Church, and had resisted the legislative attempts to remedy the grievance in order to have a lever to promote the cause of disestablishment. It was inconsistent and illogical for the supporters of this Motion to come forward now and taunt the Opposition with not having removed this grievance, when the present supporters of the Government were the Party who had in the past resisted any attempt to deal with it. It had been suggested that there were hard cases where assessments were imposed upon those who had no facilities for worshipping in the parish church. For example, it was contended that an assessment might be imposed upon feuars for a church in which the seating accommodation had been divided amongst the heritors. If such a case could be proved to exist, undoubtedly it would be a case of hardship, but in point of fact there was no such case. As to the argument that the position of the Church would be strengthened by relying on voluntary contributions, and the argument that as church rates were abolished in Engand in 1868, these assessments should now be abolished, he denied that there was any analogy between church rates in England and heritors' assessments in Scotland. The circumstances in the two cases differed entirely, and if the Church of Scotland were to be asked to rely solely upon voluntary contributions she would be placed in a most anomalous and unjust position. As a matter of fact at the present moment she did rely to a considerable extent on voluntary contributions. [Cries of "No."] Even taking the figures quoted by the hon. Member for East Edinburgh, it appeared that she relied on voluntary contributions to the extent of 45 per cent. He asked the House to consider what would happen if the proposition of the hon. Member were worked out in practice. Let them take the case of a parish in which there was one big landowner, and a large number of small and poor landowners. At present the cost of repairs of the manse fell primarily on the large landowner, and, it was said by the Chief Secretary in the debate in 1900, that that was an excellent social obligation which he did not wish to see altered. Of course, the large landowner took this liability into consideration when he purchased the property, if it was purchased; he discounted it in the price which he paid. He knew that there would pass to him with the property this obligation, and according to the standards of any ordinary prudent man he would naturally take that into account. Hon. Members opposite said that this excellent social obligation ought to be removed from the landowner, and that they ought to trust to his generosity. But supposing he was not generous, what was to happen? Supposing that he did not profess the Protestant religion and that he did not see fit to contribute anything of the assessment, what would be the result? They would impose the burden on the shoulders of those who were least able to bear it—on those who would work their fingers to the bone to bear the burden. They would do that for the relief of whom? For the relief of the large landowner. The Motion now before the House was a proposal to disendow the Church of Scotland in order to endow the landowners of Scotland. That was the long and short of it. He must say that it was a novel proposition to come from the Liberal Party. The hon. Member for East Edinburgh had attempted to excuse this extraordinary proposal by saying that they would not leave the money with the landowners. [Cheers.] Hon. Members opposite cheered that statement. He expected the cheer, and he admired the candour of hon. Gentlemen, but he deplored their political ethics. He asked them to see what the proposal came to. They were robbing Peter in order to pay Paul whom they had denounced on every platform in the land. That was amazing, but what was far more amazing was the excuse which they offered, namely, that by-and-by in the process of time when Paul's back was turned they hoped to be able to pick his pocket. If these were the intentions of hon. Gentlemen opposite, all he could say was that they agreed very fitly with the aims of the advocates of disestablishment and disendowment in the past. If these were the tactics which hon. Gentlemen who supported the Motion intended to pursue, then he could assure them that the attack would fail, because the Church of Scotland was far too strongly entrenched in the hearts not only of its own followers, but in the hearts of all Scottish people. By the help of the Government majority they might carry this Motion; they might carry a Bill to disestablish and disendow the Church; they might dethrone the Church of Scotland from its immemorial position in the polity of Scotland, they might despoil it of its wordly goods, but there was one thing they could never do—disestablish it from its place in the hearts of the Scottish people or disendow it of their love.

MR. MUNRO FERGUSON (Leith Burghs) said he was not prepared to defend any principle in this Motion which would allow parish money to be handed back to individuals, and he thought that if a Bill were drafted probably some provision would have to be made by which parish money should belong to the parish. He had learned to appreciate the value of that doctrine by the fact that in the Highlands of Scotland he had observed that parish money raised by ecclesiastical assessments was devoted to the repair of churches and manses which were certainly not wanted for the religious needs of the people. It had seldom fallen to his lot to notice a more scandalous misuse of public money than the levies which were made for maintaining churches and manses which were perfectly useless in parts of the country for the religious ordinances required by the people. Another aspect of the question was the waste that occurred in levying the assessments for ecclesiastical purposes. In the South Leith case, to which the hon. Member for East Edinburgh had referred, the money wanted for repairs was £522, and the amount of assessment was £1,250. The Church of Scotland, of which he was a member, would have to devise a different system of raising the money before it recommended itself to the Scottish people, and it was on that ground that he supported the Motion. He knew that in the Highlands of Scotland this parish money was devoted to the repair of churches and manses which were perfectly useless, so far as the religious requirements of the people were concerned, and there were numerous cases where there was scandalous extravagance in the cost of the levy. He sincerely believed that the Church of Scotland would benefit if some change were made in the operation of the existing law.

*MR. COCHRANE (Aryshire, N.) said that the hon. Member who had just sat down had laid considerable stress on the cost of collection of the assessment, but he failed to see that that cost would be overcome if the Resolution before the House was translated into a Bill and passed into law. The hon. Member for East Edinburgh, in somewhat strong terms, had complained of these compulsory assessments as being unjust and inequitable. He quite recognised that there were some hon. Members who considered all rates and taxes unjust and inequitable. The hon. Member for East Edinburgh had entirely failed to show how these assessments were unjust and inequitable. They had been sanctioned through long centuries by custom and had been embodied in Acts of Parliament, and to do away with them would be doing something which would be unjust and inequitable in a far greater degree. At present the manses and the buildings of the churches belonged to the heritors, and if the obligation for repairs was transferred from those to whom the fabrics belonged and thrown on to others to whom they did not belong it would be an injustice a hundred times greater than any at present experienced. The hon. Member had entirely failed to point out what he proposed to do with the money. Did he propose to relieve the landowners entirely of their obligations for repairs of churches and manses, and was this to be a bribe to the landowners to induce them not to resist attacks upon the outposts of the Established Church? He would remind the hon. Member that the worst characters in history were not those who accepted bribes, but those who offered them. He himself was a heritor, and a member of the Church of Scotland, and he certainly would not envy anyone who would endeavour by the offer of any sums of money to weaken the allegiance of men in that position to their church. He ventured to say that no real grievance at present existed. Since the Act of 1900 was passed any grievance which existed had been removed. [Cries of "Oh, oh."] One clause of that Act provided that—

> "Thirty days public notice shall be given of any resolution to impose an assessment according to the real rent. The object of this provision is to allow an opportunity to those interested in avoiding friction in the parish to consider the matter, and, if they think proper, to make an arrangement to relieve the smaller heritors."

The object of giving them thirty days was that there might be an opportunity afforded to the Kirk Session to make up their minds whether they would assess the small feuars or not, but the use of the thirty days had been turned in another direction, and a certain amount of agitation had been raised during their continuance. The feuars had been told that they would be assessed, and in the case of South Leith, the meetings of heritors were disturbed by people who thought they were going to be assessed, whereas when the Kirk Session met they decided that they would find the money and relieve the small feuars altogether. The whole matter therefore was a storm in a tea-cup. If the hon. Member could suggest some means which would prevent this agitation from being got up he would have his most cordial support. While on the one hand a greater measure of disestablishment and disendowment had for been spoken of by the hon. Member Paisley, the hon. member for East Edinburgh had pointed out with feeling that there never was a time when there was a greater approach to good feeling and good will among the churches and less jealousy of the Church of Scotland than now existed. He was not going to pit one Church against another, but let him ask hon. Members to remember the good work which had been done and was being done by the Church of Scotland, whose record was such that any churchman might be proud of it. Was this the time for hon. Members to point the finger of scorn at it and take even the smallest step or aim any blow against that Church? He regretted if in former years any differences had arisen between the ministers of the different churches, but no reflection of that kind arose now, because they saw the minister of one church frequently occupying the pulpit of another church, and the ministers were now all of them meeting in social work and associating themselves in the common cause of religion. He asked therefore whether this was the time at which any cause of friction should be introduced between one body and another. An hon. Member had spoken of the old Abbey Church, of which he thought every Scotsman was in his heart proud. Scotsmen abroad, although they might have been abroad for years, one and all recalled their early days in regard to the churches in which they and their forefathers had worshipped. It would give rise to a deep feeling of regret to every Scotsman, not only in this country but all over the world, if they were to make the repair and maintenance of these buildings more difficult than at present. He hoped therefore that hon. Members would not press this Resolution. Why should they raise these questions which had slumbered peacefully for so many years? [Cries of "No, no."] As one who lived in Scotland he had heard nothing of them for many years, and not even a whisper of anything in the nature of a general wish for disestablishment. If hon. Members could see any way in which the legislation of 1900 could be improved he would be one of the first to support them in a proposal of that character, but to take away from the Church of Scotland these endowments would in his opinion be unjust.

THE LORD ADVOCATE (Mr. THOMAS SHAW, Hawick Burghs) said that in the course of a very interesting debate they now learned, very much to their surprise, that the Church and manse rates, which did not exist in Ireland and had been abolished for forty years in England, were an outpost of the Established Church in Scotland. He did not think that the Established Church was so mean as to say that. It was very significant that two members of the Established Church had moved and seconded this Resolution, and said they did so in the interests of the Church of Scotland. He thought these taxes were inequitable and unjust, and he did not now, speaking officially, vary from the attitude which he had assumed in 1900. The hon. Member for North Ayrshire had said these questions had been slumbering peacefully for years, but he was afraid he had not kept himself up to date, because hardly a single year had passed without some storm centre arising in regard to them. Now it was Aberdeen, then it was Selkirk, and then Coldstream, and whereas the country was entirely in accord in regard to education, and there was educational peace, this question was found to be the bar to social harmony in certain districts. This was caused by the levy of rates for churches and manses, and he thought that his hon. friend was mistaken if he supposed that all over the country there was not a deep sense of grievance at this levy being enforced by law. No doubt it was quite true that they could not have fabrics without money, but their position was that it was wholly inequitable and unjust to have a levy for such purposes. It was doing a poor service to the Church of Scotland to represent that this perfectly inequitable and unjust impost was bound up with her interests otherwise. He congratulated the House on this debate. It was opened with great knowledge and skill by the mover and seconder, and he had little to complain of in the answers from the opposite side. The hon. Member for Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities, who always addressed the House with force, had painted the picture with lurid colours. But he (the Lord Advocate) did not think the matter was so serious as he had made out. According to the hon. Member the Liberal Party had a bad record in this matter, as they had always opposed the Bills introduced to remedy the grievance. That was because the Bills were shuffling Bills. In 1876 it was proposed not to abolish the assessment, but to alter its basis. Another Bill with a similar purpose was introduced in 1884. In 1887 a Bill was brought in with the idea that this tax should be removed from the shoulders of owners of houses and property paying up to £100 a year in rent. He did not understand exceptions of that sort. Either this was an unjust impost on property or it was not. In the case of that Bill the intention was simply to get rid of the agitator so that complaints against the levy might no longer be heard. Then came the Bill of 1900. It was said to be a Bill that would remove the grievance from those who were most subject to agitation; and therefore the line of £50 rental was fixed. The owners under that figure were not relieved, but they could be let off at the will of the Kirk Session of the parish—a kind of novelty in the taxation of land of which the House had never seen the like before. He and other Liberal Members at that time protested, and said that the best way to deal with the question of Church and manse rates in Scotland was not to reshuffle or readjust the assessments, but to take them away altogether. For nearly forty years this injustice had gone on. What took place 300 years ago? The owners who ought to have kept this up were not Presbyterians at all, but Roman Catholics. The Church was not the Church the hon. Member alluded to, but another Church altogether. The Protestantism of that day was a Protestantism which embraced the whole population, and the idea of applying to people now to support an Establishment which did not represent the whole population or any thing like it, and to leave the burden of this rate on people who did not believe in the Established Church, was unjust. These assessments were paid by owners of land and houses who went to churches of their own, paid their own ministers, built and repaired their own churches and manses. Now came the claim that these people should, in addition, pay an assessment for the manses and the churches of the Established Church. A sense of injustice was caused by this irritating impost. Therefore, when his hon. friend said that the hon. Member for East Edinburgh had adopted epithets in his Motion, he thought no one who was not entrenched in ecclesiastical prejudice, but who was able to look outside to the good sense and plain dealing of the question, could doubt for one moment that these epithets "inequitable and unjust" were truly applied to this case. Then another amazing statement had been made by his hon. friend, who said that peace had been secured by the Act of 1900. Had anyone ever heard the like of that? The cases that had occurred since that peace-giving Act were these. In the followings year, at Perth, there was great excitement because the congregation there would not do what their friends and neighbours did, viz., pay their own way and make a levy among themselves or their friends who believed with them, and so there was a sale of goods and household furniture by auction, as the House would be distressed to hear. The dissatisfied and protesting ratepayers were all put to that trouble and the locality to that disturbance on the warrant of the sheriff. Was it wise to talk of that kind of thing as an outpost of the Established Church? He thought that was a very dangerous line to take, and he would not recommend its use in this House. In 1903 there came the question of Selkirk. A household defence association was formed for the purpose of resisting the assessment of the owners of house property. Selkirk was the home of dissent in Scotland. They had got large sums for the propagation of what they called their Presbyterian evangelical religion in Scotland, and that these households should be taxed for the building of churches in which they did not believe, and for the building of a manse for a minister who was not their minister, seemed to be an outrage on the decencies of the situation. His hon. friend said that this had quieted down, but it had quieted down in a way which demanded considerable scrutiny. In 1904 the same question caused irritation, and in 1905 there was irritation in Aberdeen because those who were assessed felt that they were treated unjustly; and there were also the Coldstream and the Leith cases. Therefore, what he said with regard to the Act of 1900 was that, not only had it not produced peace, but it seemed to have involved the people in more and more dispeace, and had brought matters to such a pass that Parliament at an early date must make a definite declaration on the subject. In Ireland such a tax was unknown. The state of matters in England was almost stronger. In the year 1868 there were Church rates in England, and what happened was best described in the Statute of 30 & 31 Vict. Here was the preamble to that Act—

> "Whereas Church rates have for some years ceased to be made or collected in many parishes by reason of opposition thereto, and in many other parishes where Church rates have been made the levying thereof has given rise to litigation and ill feeling. And whereas it is convenient that the power to compel payment of Church rates by legal process of law should be abolished, be it enacted——"

and so on. That preamble, applied to legislation in England, described with perfect accuracy the situation of affairs in Scotland at this moment. It was argued that they would make a present to the landlords. He was very much against doing that if he could help it. He would be glad to assist any persons in distress, but he did not like doing it by Act of Parliament. The present to the landlord argument was best answered in the Scottish way. He would take the Coldstream case, where everybody was surprised at the assessment. Everybody was always surprised at the assessment to Church rates, it was such an outrage on the decencies of the position. If it was a yearly assessment they could commute; if it was a ten-yearly or even a twenty-yearly assessment they could commute. But what would happen in individual parishes of Scotland no man could judge. In some parishes there had not been any such assessments for 100 years, and in some they would probably not be made for 100 years to come if Parliament was so cruel as to keep the law on the Statute-book. The matter would not bear examination, and the thing could not be actuarially accomplished; there were no definite *data* of periodical payment to enable such a task to be performed. Then there was another argument to which he had been expressly desired by an eminent member of the Church of Scotland to refer. The argument was that the Church of Scotland ought not to be asked to pay for the maintenance of the buildings of the Church because the Church had no right of property as a church. Of course, that sounded very good. The answer of the free-rent tenant was, "If I am to do my own repairs I beg of you to confer upon me the right of ownership in the property." He had never before heard such a proposal. The Church of Scotland had not bought the land upon which those buildings were erected, it had not built the premises or maintained the fabric, and it had not expended anything except that which was raised from sources of taxation. It was argued that the Church ought not to be asked to pay for the maintenance of a building in which it had no right and property as a church. But that proposal really meant that if they compelled them to repair the property in which they were enabled by law to sit rent free, that could not be done except by declaring them owners for all time. But nobody was asking to dispossess them of it. The only proposal was that, being where they were, they should do what their friends and neighbours all round them did, namely, pay their own way according to the tenets of their own Church. He thought the true argument in this matter went a good deal deeper than it had been put. In 1900 he said on this question—

> "I object to the Bill for the simple and cardinal reason that it recognises and reaffirms the continuance of the assessment with which it deals, whereas I am in favour of the total and immediate abolition of this assessment."

He adhered to that view, and he was authorised by the Government to say that they adhered to that view, and that therefore they accepted the Resolution. He would quote a little more from the same speech. He then said—

> "To promote religion by levying rates is not in my opinion any part of the duty of the State, in fact it is not a service but a disservice to religion itself; and the same observation applies to the levying of rates for the purpose of promoting the convenience or saving the pockets of those who profess a particular style of religion or hold particular views as to church government."

He did not think those who had spoken against this Motion realised the strength of the establishment in Scotland. Compared with other religious communities in Scotland the Church of Scotland was, relatively speaking, wealthy, and knowing as he did the remarkable attachment of the members of that Church to their principles he could not think that that Church would be injured by doing what every other religion in Scotland did, namely, pay its own way.

Question put.

The House divided.—Ayes, 177; Noes, 39. (Division List No. 28.)

AYES.

Abraham, William (Rhondda)
Agnew, George William
Ainsworth, John Stirling
Allen, A. Acland (Christchurch)
Baker, Sir John (Portsmouth)
Baker, Joseph A. (Finsbury, E.
Balfour, Robert (Lanark)
Barker, John
Barlow, Percy (Bedford)
Barnard, E. B.
Barnes, G. N.
Barran, Rowland Hirst
Barry, E. (Cork, S.)
Beale, W. P.
Belloc, Hilaire Joseph Peter R.
Black, Arthur W.
Bowerman, C. W.
Brace, William
Bramsdon, T. A.
Brigg, John
Brocklehurst, W. B.

Brunner, J.F.L. (Lancs., Leigh)
Bryce, J. Annan
Buchanan, Thomas Ryburn
Carr-Gomm, H. W.
Chance, Frederick William
Cheetham, John Frederick
Cleland, J. W.
Clough, William
Cobbold, Felix Thornley
Corbett, C.H. (Sussex, EGrinst'd
Cremer, William Randal
Crosfield, A. H.
Crossley, William J.
Dalziel, James Henry
Davies, Ellis William (Eifion)
Davies, W. Howell (Bristol, S.)
Delany, William
Dewar, Arthur (Edinburgh, S.)
Dolan, Charles Joseph
Duffy, William J.
Duncan, C. (Barrow-in-Furness
Edwards, Clement (Denbigh)
Edwards, Enoch (Hanley)
Elibank, Master of
Erskine, David C.
Evans, Samuel T.
Eve, Harry Trelawney
Everett, R. Lacey
Farrell, James Patrick
Fenwick, Charles
Ferens, T. R.
Ferguson, R. C. Munro
Ffrench, Peter
Fiennes, Hon. Eustace
Findlay, Alexander
Flynn, James Christopher
Fuller, John Michael F.
Fullerton, Hugh
Gardner, Col. Alan (Hereford, S.
Gibb, James (Harrow)
Glendinning, R. G.
Glover, Thomas
Goddard, Daniel Ford
Greenwood, Hamar (York)
Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir Edward
Gulland, John W.
Gwynn, Stephen Lucius
Hardie, J. Keir (Merthyr Tydvil
Haslam, Lewis (Monmouth)
Haworth, Arthur A.
Hayden, John Patrick
Hedges, A. Paget
Henderson, Arthur (Durham)
Henderson, J.M. (Aberdeen, W.)
Higham, John Sharp
Hodge, John
Hogan, Michael
Hope, John Deans (Fife, West)
Hudson, Walter
Jenkins, J.
Johnson, W. (Nuneaton)
Jones, Leif (Appleby)
Jones, William (Carnarvonshire)
Kearley, Hudson E.
Kelley, George D.
Kilbride, Denis
Laidlaw, Robert
Lamb, Ernest H. (Rochester)
Lewis, John Herbert
Lundon, W.
Lupton, Arnold
Luttrell, Hugh Fownes
Lyell, Charles Henry
Macdonald, J. R. (Leicester)
Mclean, Donald
MacVeagh, Jeremiah (Down, S.
MacVeigh, Charles (Donegal, E.
M‘Callum, John M.
M‘Kean, John
M‘Killop, W.
M‘Laren, Sir C. B. (Leicester)
M‘Laren, H. D. (Stafford, W.)
M‘Micking, Major G.
Maddison, Frederick
Manfield, Harry (Northants)
Mansfield, H. Rendall (Lincoln)
Markham, Arthur Basil
Marks, G. Croydon (Launceston)
Massie, J.
Meagher, Michael
Menzies, Walter
Micklem, Nathaniel
Molteno, Percy Alport
Mond, A.
Montgomery, H. G.
Morgan, G. Hay (Cornwall)
Morley, Rt. Hon. John
Morrell, Philip
Morse, L. L.
Murphy, John
Myer, Horatio
Norman, Sir Henry
Nuttall, Harry
O'Brien, Kendal (Tipperary)
O'Brien, Patrick (Kilkenny)
O'Connor, John (Kildare, N.)
O'Dowd, John
O'Mara, James
O'Shaughnessy, P. J.
Parker, James (Halifax)
Pease, J. A. (Saffron Walden)
Pirie, Duncan V.
Power, Patrick Joseph
Price, C.E. (Edinburgh, Central)
Radford, G. H.
Rainy, A. Rolland
Reddy, M.
Redmond, John E. (Waterford
Rendall, Athelstan
Richards, T.F. (Wolverh'mpt'n
Roberts, Charles H. (Lincoln)
Roberts, G. H. (Norwich)
Robinson, S.
Runciman, Walter
Rutherford, V. H. (Brentford)
Scott, A.H. (Ashton under Lyne
Seddon, J.
Shaw, Rt. Hon. T. (Hawick B.)
Sherwell, Arthur James
Shipman, Dr. John G.
Simon, John Allsebrook
Sinclair, Rt. Hon. John
Smeaton, Donald Mackenzie
Smyth, Thomas F. (Leitrim S.)
Soares, Ernest J.
Stewart, Halley (Greenock)
Summerbell, T.
Taylor, John W. (Durham)
Thomas, David Alfred (Merthyr
Thomasson, Franklin
Thompson, J.W.H. (Somerset, E
Trevelyan, Charles Philips
Walsh, Stephen
Ward, John (Stoke upon Trent
Wason, Eugene (Clackmannan)
Wason, John Cathcart (Orkney
Watt, H. Anderson
White, George (Norfolk)
White, Patrick (Meath, North)
Whiteley, George (York, W.R.)
Whitley, J. H. (Halifax)
Wilkie, Alexander
Williams, Llewelyn (Carmarth'n
Wilson, P. W. (St. Pancras, S.)
Wilson, W. T. (Westhoughton)
Young, Samuel

Tellers for the Ayes—Mr. M‘Crae and Mr. Crombie.

NOES.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hn. Sir Alex. F
Ashley, W. W.
Balfour, Rt. Hn. A.J. (City Lond.
Banbury, Sir Frederick George
Barrie, H. T. (Londonderry, N.
Beach, Hn. Michael Hugh Hicks
Boyle, Sir Edward
Bridgeman, W. Clive
Carlile, E. Hildred
Cavendish, Rt. Hn. Victor C.W.
Cecil, Lord John P. Joicey-
Cecil, Lord R. (Marylebone, E.)
Cochrane, Hon. Thos. H. A. E.
Corbett, T. L. (Down, North)
Courthope, G. Loyd
Dalrymple, Viscount
Douglas, Rt. Hon. A. Akers-
Duncan, Robert (Lanark, Gov'n
Fell, Arthur
Fetherstonhaugh, Godfrey
Finch, Rt. Hon. George H.
Forster, Henry William
Hamilton, Marquess of
Harrison-Broadley, Col. H. B.
Heaton, John Henniker
Hervey, F.W.F. (Bury S.Ed'ds)
Hills, J. W.
Hunt, Rowland
Meysey-Thompson, E. C.
Nield, Herbert
Parker, Sir Gilbert (Gravesend)
Rawlinson, John Frederick Peel
Salter, Arthur Clavell
Starkey, John R.
Talbot, Lord E. (Chichester)
Walker, Col. W.H. (Lancashire)
Walrond, Hon. Lionel
Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. Stuart-
Younger, George

Tellers for the Noes—Sir Henry Craik and Mr Mitchell-Thomson.

Adjourned at five minutes after Eleven o'clock.

[APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

PUBLIC BILLS

DEALT WITH IN VOLUME CLXIX.

Those marked thus * are Government Bills. The figures in parentheses in the last column refer to the page in this volume. "[H.L.]" following title indicates that the Bill originated in the House of Lords.

(A.) HOUSE OF LORDS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
*Australian States Consolidation [H.L.]	*Earl of Elgin*	Read 1ª 19th Feb. (674) Read 2ª 26th Feb. (1294)
Companies Act (Debenture and Debenture Stock) [H.L.]	*Lord Avebury*	Read 1ª 26th Feb. (1394)
House of Lords Reform [H.L.]	*Lord Newton*	Read 1ª 21st Feb. (979)
*Judicature [H.L.]	*Lord Loreburn*	Read 1ª 25th Feb. (1221)

(B.) HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Absent Voters	*Mr. Williamson*	Read 1º 18th Feb. (567)
Aged Pensioners	*Mr. Samuel Roberts*	Read 1º 15th Feb. (422)
*Butter and Margarine	*Sir Edward Strachey*	Read 1º 14th Feb. (317)
Church Discipline	*Mr. Austin Taylor*	Read 1º 20th Feb. (856)
Coal Mines (Eight Hours)	*Mr. Walsh*	Read 1º 15th Feb. (417)
Coal Mines (Regulation)	*Mr. Wadsworth*	Read 1º 15th Feb. (419)
Compulsory Weighing and Measurements	*Mr. G. H. Roberts*	Read 1º 15th Feb. (418)
Coroners	*Mr. Luke White*	Read 1º 21st Feb. (1057)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Coroners' Inquests (Railway, &c., Fatalities)	*Sir Francis Channing*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (421)
Corporal Punishment (Restriction)	*Mr. Lloyd Morgan*	Read 1° 18th Feb. (566)
Crofters' Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment	*Mr. Weir*	Read 1° 19th Feb. (722)
Dogs (Protection)	*Mr. Ellis Griffith*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1453)
Dublin Metropolitan Police	*Mr. Harrington*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (420)
Ecclesiastical Disorders	*Sir George Kekewich*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (420)
Education Acts Amendment	*Mr. Walter Rea*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (419)
Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland)	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (418)
*Education (Special Religious Instruction)	*Mr. McKenna*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1453)
*Employers' Liability (Insurance Companies)	*Mr. Kearley*	Read 1° 25th Feb. (1276)
Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge)	*Mr. John Taylor*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (422)
Fisheries (Ireland)	*Mr. Mooney*	Read 1° 18th Feb. (567)
Foreign Trawlers (Regulation)	*Mr. Williamson*	Read 1° 18th Feb. (567)
Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities	*Sir Charles Dilke*	Read 1° 25th Feb. (423)
Grocers' Licences (Scotland)	*Mr. Rainy*	Read 1° 25th Feb. (1276)
Home Work Regulation	*Mr. Ramsay Macdonald*	Read 1° 21st Feb. (1057)
Housing of the Working Classes, &c.	*Mr. Bowerman*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1453)
Infant Life Protection	*Mr. Staveley-Hill*	Read 1° 19th Feb. (723)
Intestate Husband's Estate (Scotland)	*Mr. Crombie*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (419)
Irish Land	*Mr. T. W. Russell*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (422)
*Irish Land (No. 2)	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1452)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Irish Tobacco	*Mr. William Redmond*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (421)
Jurors (Expenses)	*Mr. Lloyd Morgan*	Read 1° 18th Feb. (566)
Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment	*Mr. Hogan*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (417)
Leasehold Enfranchisement	*Mr. Maclean*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1452)
Licensed Premises (Election Days) Closing	*Mr. Charles Roberts*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (422)
Lights on Vehicles	*Major Renton*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (419)
Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland)	*Mr. Robert Balfour*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (418)
Liquor Traffic (Local Veto)	*Mr. Leif Jones*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (420)
*Local Registration of Title (Ireland)	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	Read 1 26th Feb. (1453)
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister	*Sir Brampton Gurdon*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (417) Read 2° 22nd Feb. (1151)
Merchandise Marks	*Sir Howard Vincent*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (421)
Old Age Pensions	*Mr. W. H. Lever*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (418)
Pedlars Acts Amendment	*Mr. Stopford Brooke*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1452)
Pharmacy	*Mr. Winfrey*	Read 1° 19th Feb. (722)
*Poisons and Pharmacy	*Mr. Herbert Samuel*	Read 1° 22nd Feb. (1215)
Police Superannuation (Scotland)	*Mr. McCrae*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (422)
Political Pensions	*Sir Howard Vincent*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (421)
*Post Office Sites	*Mr. Buxton*	Read 1° 14th Feb. (316)
*Prisons (Ireland)	*Mr. Attorney-General for Ireland*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1452)
Probation of First Offenders	*Sir Howard Vincent*	Read 1° 14th Feb. (421)
Public Health	*Mr. John William Wilson*	Read 1° 26th Feb. (1452)
*Public Health (Regulations as to Food)	*Mr. Burns*	Read 1° 13th Feb. (158)
Railways (Contracts)	*Mr. Lambton*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (417)

Title of Bill.	Brought in by	Progress.
Reformatory and Industrial Schools	*Mr. George Greenwood*	Read 1° 20th Feb. (856)
Resident Magistrates (Belfast)	*Mr. Wolff*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (419)
Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland)	*Mr. Sloan*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (422)
Sale of Whisky	*Mr. Williamson*	Read 1° 18th Feb. (568)
School Board Electorate (Scotland)	*Mr. Weir*	Read 1° 19th Feb. (722)
Settlement of Paupers	*Mr. Staveley Hill*	Read 1° 19th Feb. (723)
Shops	*Sir Charles Dilke*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (423) Bill withdrawn 19th Feb. (812)
Shops (No. 2)	*Sir Charles Dilke*	Read 1° 21st Feb. (1057)
Small Holdings	*Mr. George Hardy*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (418)
Small Holdings (Scotland)	*Mr. Munro Ferguson*	Read 1 25th Feb. (1276)
Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland)	*Mr. Featherstonhaugh*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (421)
Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment	*Mr. Herbert Roberts*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (420)
Sweated Industries	*Mr. Arthur Henderson*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (420)
Telegraph (Construction)	*Mr. Buxton*	Read 1° 14th Feb. (316)
Trawlers' Certificates Suspension	*Mr. Weir*	Read 1° 19th Feb. (722)
Wages Boards	*Mr. Ernest Lamb*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (419)
Weights and Measures (Metric System)	*Mr. B. S. Straus*	Read 1° 15th Feb. (417)
Women's Enfranchisement	*Mr. Dickinson*	Read 1° 14th Feb. (416)

APPENDIX II.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, SESSION 1907.

LIST OF RULES, ORDERS, &c., which have been presented during the Session, and are required by Statute to lie for an appointed number of Days upon the Table of the House.

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the Table.
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copies of Orders made by the Councils of the Boroughs of Beverley, Bacup, and Wallsend, of the County Borough of West Hartlepool, of the Councils of the counties of Glamorgan, Lancaster, and of the West Riding of Yorkshire, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	12 February	40 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Secretary for Scotland providing for the early closing of certain Shops in the burgh of Rutherglen [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	12 February	40 days
Public Records (King's Bench (Crown Side),—Copy of Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents belonging to the Crown Side of the late Court of King's Bench and the present King's Bench Division of the High Court of Justice which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	12 February	4 weeks
Factory and Workshop Acts (Dangerous and Unhealthy Industries),—Copy of Regulations, dated 21st January 1907, made by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, in pursuance of Section 79 of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, for the manufacture of Paints and Colours [1 Edw. VII., c. 22, s. 84]	13 February	40 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Woolwich, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain Classes of Shops [4 Edw. VII., c. 31. s. 3 (3)]	13 February	40 days
New South Wales,—Copy of the Parliamentary Elections Act (No. 41) [13 and 14 Vic., c. 59, s. 2]	15 February	30 days
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by Council of the Metropolitan Borough of Bethnal Green, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the Borough [4 Edw. VII., c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	18 February	40 days

Title of Paper.	Date from which the Period runs.	Period to lie upon the table.
Public Records (Inland Revenue Department),—Copy of Second Schedule containing a List and Particulars of Classes of Documents in the Department of the Inland Revenue which are not considered of sufficient public value to justify their preservation in the Public Record Office [40 and 41 Vic., c. 55, s. 1]	18 February	4 weeks.
Board of Education,—Copy of Draft Order in Council continuing certain provisions contained in the Order in Council of 6th March, 1902 [62 and 63 Vic., c. 33, s. 5]	19 February	4 weeks
Shop Hours Act, 1904,—Copy of Order made by the Council of the Urban District of Chadderton, and confirmed by the Secretary of State for the Home Department, fixing the Hours of Closing for certain classes of Shops within the urban district [4 Edw. VII. c. 31, s. 3 (3)]	20 February	40 days
Intermediate Education (Ireland),—Copy of Time Table of Examinations for 1907 [41 and 42 Vic., c. 66, s. 6]	22 February	40 days

INDEX

TO THE

PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

[AUTHORISED EDITION].

FIRST VOLUME OF SESSION 1907.

FEBRUARY 12—*FEBRUARY* 26.

EXPLANATION OF ARRANGEMENT AND ABBREVIATIONS.

Bills: Read First, Second, or Third Time = 1R., 2R., 3R. [*c.*] = Commons. [*l.*] = Lords. *Amendt.* = Amendment. *Os.* = Observations. *Qs.* = Questions. *As.* = Answers. *Com.* = Committee. *Con.* = Consideration. *Rep.* = Report.

Where in the Index * is added with Reading of a Bill, or a Vote in Committee of Supply, it indicates that no Debate took place on that stage of the Bill, or on that Vote.

Subjects discussed in Committee of Supply are entered under their headings, and also under Members' Names, without reference to the actual Vote before the Committee.

Aberdeen
- Underground Telegraph Cable, Expediting Laying of, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 14*, 309.

Absent Voters Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 567.

Abyssinia
- Agreements Between United Kingdom, France, and Italy, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40, 50, 51.

Acland-Hood, Rt. Hon. Sir A. [Somerset, Wellington]
- Worcester, Borough of, New Writ for—Motion for Issue of, Time Given for Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14*, 317.

Adkins, Mr. W. R. [Lancashire, Middleton]
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 621–623.
- Parliament—Relations between Lords and Commons.
  - Dissolution, Right of the House of Lords to Dictate as to, *Feb. 18*, 623.
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18*, 622.
  - Precedents for Rejection of First-Class Measures by the Lords in First Session of a New Parliament, *Feb. 18*, 622, 624.
  - Right of the Lords to Interfere in Financial Measures, *Feb. 18*, 622.

Administrative County of London and District Electric Power Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 278.

Admiralty
- *First Lord.*—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
- *Financial Secretary.*—Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.
- Contracts
  - Allocation of and System of Calling for Tenders.
    - *Q.* Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 21*, 1019.
  - Tinned Meat Rations, Regulations as to Supply of.
    - *Q.* Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 19*, 691, 692.

Afghanistan
- Amir of, Visit of, to India.
  - *Os.* Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 6; Marquess of Lansdowne, 22; Marquess of Ripon, 33, 34; Mr. Rainy, 61; Mr. Rees, *Feb. 13*, 215.
  - References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 2.

Africa
- Liquor Traffic—Convention Signed at Brussels, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40, 50.

Africa, East
- Chinde—Decision as to British Concession.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill *Feb. 26*, 1423, 1424.

[*cont.*

Africa, East—*cont.*

Indian Penal Code, Substitution of Ordinary English Law for, in British Protectorate, proposed.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20,* 830, 831.

Liquor Traffic—Regulations as to Importation, etc.
Q. Mr. Armitage; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14,* 290.

Portuguese Native Labour, Recruitment for the Transvaal Mines—Question as to Robinson Group, etc.
Os. Lord Harris, *Feb. 19,* 676; Earl of Elgin, 682.

Commission of Inquiry, proposals as to.
Q. Sir G. Parker; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20,* 829, 830.

Facilities to be Afforded to Other Mines than the Robinson Group.
Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20,* 830.

Result of Negotiations.
Qs. Mr. Belloc, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14,* 304, 305.

Africa, German South-West

Military Operations, Use of Wireless Telegraphy in—Reports Furnished to War Office.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18,* 539, 540.

Africa, South

(*See also names of Colonies, etc.*)

British Indians, Trading Rights of—Effect of Vrededorp Stands Ordinance.
Q. Mr. Scott; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19,* 706.

Ridgeway Commission of Inquiry, Constitution of, Date of Presenting Report, etc.
Os. Mr. Lyttelton, *Feb. 26,* 1511; Mr. Churchill, 1512, 1513; Mr. Ashley, 1514–1516.

Africa, West

(*See also names of places.*)

Anglo-French Frontier—Agreement Presented, *Feb. 12,* 40, 51.

Aged Pensioners Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 422.

Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906

Evasion of by Certain Landlords, Allegations as to and proposals for Preventing.
Q. Mr. Rowlands; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 18,* 564.

Postponement of Operation of—Allegations as to Advantage Taken by Landlords Regarding Tenants' Agreements, etc.
Qs. Mr. Montagu, Mr. Rowlands, Mr. Fullerton; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 18,* 563, 564.

Agriculture

Acreage in England and Wales Occupied by Small Holdings.
Q. Mr. Rogers; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 25,* 1227, 1228.

Diseases, Lack of Trustworthy Information as to Treatment of, etc.
Os. Mr. J. F. Mason, *Feb. 14,* 375, 376; Sir E. Strachey, 390.

Rothampsted Experimental Station, Work Done at—Government Grant, proposed.
Os. Mr. A. Smith, *Feb. 14,* 379; Mr. Carlile, 386–388; Sir E. Strachey, 390.

Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for Bringing up to Date, etc.
Os. Mr. J. F. Mason, *Feb. 14,* 374–379; Mr. A. Smith, 379, 380; Sir F. Channing, 380–383; Viscount Helmsley, 383, 384; Mr. Verney, 384–386; Sir E. Strachey, 388–391; Mr. V. Cavendish, 391, 392; Mr. Brigg, 392, 393; Mr. Barnard, 393; Mr. Helme, 394, 395; Mr. Meysey-Thompson, 395; Mr. M. Ferguson, 396–398; Col. Williams, 398; Mr. Courthope, 398; Mr. T. Taylor, 399–401.

Agriculture and Fisheries, Board of

President.—Rt. Hon. Earl Carrington.

Annual Report (Distribution of Grants), Presented, *Feb. 12,* 41, 52.

Constitution and Date of last Meeting.
Q. Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 25,* 1260.

Information, Inadequacy of Sources of, alleged.
Os. Mr. J. F. Mason, *Feb. 14,* 375–377; Sir E. Strachey, 389, 390; Mr. Courthope, 399.

Office Accommodation, Improvement in, proposed.
Q. Mr. Lane-Fox; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 19,* 721, 722.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, Ireland

Veterinary Inspectors, Reply to Memorial from.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr Birrell, *Feb. 22,* 1148.

Ainsworth, Mr. J. S. [Argyllshire]

Land Act, 1903 Stock, Conditions of Issuing, etc., *Feb. 19,* 720.

Alden, Mr. P. [Middlesex, Tottenham]

Congo Free State—Reports from Vice-Consuls Captain Mitchell and Mr. Armstrong, Proposals as to Tabling, *Feb. 26,* 1430.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20,* 933–937.

[*cont.*

Alden, Mr. P.—*cont.*
- Law Courts—Appointment of Solicitor to advise Poor Litigants, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 837, 838.
- London—Deaths from Starvation during 1906 and Deaths in Whitechapel (1870–1906) from the same cause, *Feb. 19*, 714.
- Macedonian Reform Proposals—Memorial from Refugees in Bulgaria, *Feb. 26*, 1428, 1429.
- Milk, Sale of
  - Adulteration, Procedure in Prosecutions for, *Feb. 20*, 842.
  - Recommendations of Commission, Proposals for adopting, *Feb. 25*, 1255.
- Opium
  - Cure for Opium Habit, Value of, *Feb. 19*, 708.
  - Straits Settlements Anti-opium Movement, Information as to, *Feb. 19*, 708.
- Transvaal
  - Constitution—Upper Chamber, Proposals for nominating, *Feb. 18*, 543; *Feb. 21*, 1032.
  - Elections, Granting Public Holiday for, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 543.
- Unemployed
  - Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 936.
  - Relief Works, System of, *Feb. 20*, 935.
  - Select Committee of Inquiry into the Matter, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 937.
  - Statistics as to, *Feb. 20*, 934.
  - Waste Land, Reclamation of, by means of the Unemployed, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 936.
- Worcester, New Writ for—Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14*, 324.

Alexandra (Newport and South Wales) Docks and Railway (Additional Capital, &c.) Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 278.

Aliens
- Passengers from Ports in Europe and Expulsion Orders — Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 52.
- Refusals of Leave to Land—Information contained in Return.
  - *Qs.* Viscount Castlereagh; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 21*, 1038, 1039.

Aliens Act
- Administration, Cost of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Wedgwood; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 14*, 308.

Annfield Plain and District Gas Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 279.
- 2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Anstruther-Gray, Major [St. Andrews Burghs]
- Army
  - Bayonet, New—Decision as to Pattern, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
  - Sword—Recommendation as to New Pattern for Cavalry, *Feb. 25*, 1242.
- Duke of York's School Site, Decision as to Disposal of, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
- Fisheries, Protection of—Proposals for Additional Cruiser, *Feb. 25*, 1263.
- India
  - Lahore, Allegations as to Hooting of Europeans by Natives, *Feb. 26*, 1421.
  - Nepaul—Circumstances of Murder of Mr. Bloomfield, *Feb. 26*, 1421.
- Moray Firth, Trawling in
  - Norwegians tried at Elgin, Sentences on, and Reason for Release of, *Feb. 18*, 556.
  - Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 26*, 1442, 1443.
- Navy—Rosyth Base, Proposals for completing, *Feb. 19*, 698.
- New Hebrides Convention
  - Australasian Governments, Consultation of, *Feb. 21*, 1031, 1032.
  - Native Labour, Conditions of Employing, *Feb. 21*, 1029–1031; *Feb. 26*, 1425.
- Police, Grant for Pay and Clothing—Comparison between England and Scotland, *Feb. 18*, 558.

Argentina
- Buenos Ayres, Raising to Rank of First Class Mission—Treasury Correspondence, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 57.

Arklow
- Harbour, Decision as to.
  - *Q.* Sir T. Esmonde; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 532.

Armagh Urban District Council Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 279.

Armitage, Mr. R. [Leeds, Central]
- Africa, East—Liquor Traffic—Regulations as to Importation, etc., *Feb. 14*, 290.
- Uganda
  - Beer, Spirits, and Wine, Carriage Charged on, *Feb. 14*, 289.
  - Railway
    - Housing Accommodation for Officials, *Feb. 15*, 414.
    - Lake Victoria Steamers Provided to Run in Connection with, *Feb. 14*, 290.

Army
- *Secretary of State*—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.
- *Parliamentary Secretary*—Earl of Portsmouth.
- *Financial Secretary*—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.
- Appropriation Account (1905–6) Presented, *Feb. 20*, 813.
- Army Service Corps—Reorganisation Proposals.
  - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1311, 1319.
- Arsenals, Allocation of Work in to Avoid Fluctuation of Employment—Committee of Inquiry, proposed.
  - *Os.* Mr. A. Henderson, *Feb. 25*, 1386–1388; Mr. Crooks, 1388; Mr. Walters, 1389; Mr. Haldane, 1391, 1392; Mr. K. Hardie, 1392.
- Artillery
  - Composition and Organisation of.
    - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1309–1311, 1317, 1318, 1383, 1384; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 1337; Mr. Wyndham, 1382.
  - Territorial Artillery, Armament of, Proposals as to.
    - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1298.
- Auxiliary Forces (*see also titles* Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry.
  - Mobilisation of, in the Event of War, Time Required for.
    - *Os.* Lord Lovat, *Feb. 18*, 504.
  - Reform Proposals
    - Criticisms on.
      - *Os.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *Feb. 25*, 1332; Sir H. Vincent, 1344, 1371–1374; Mr. Guest, 1376, 1377; Mr. Wyndham, 1378–1379.
      - *Q.* Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 21*, 1020.
    - *Statement* (Mr. Haldane) *Feb. 25*, 1286, 1290–1306.
  - Retention of Names "Militia," Volunteers, "Yeomanry," proposed.
    - *Os.* Sir H. Vincent, *Feb. 25*, 1372; Mr. Guest, 1376; Mr. Haldane, 1386.
- Bayonet, New—Decision as to Pattern.
  - *Q.* Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
- Cavalry, Composition and Organisation of.
  - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1307, 1308, 1318, 1319.
- Contracts, *see under* War Office.
- First Line, Composition and Strength of.
  - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1287, 1288, 1307.
- General Staff, Functions of.
  - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1290.
- Infantry, Composition of.
  - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1307.

Army—*cont.*
- Land Forces of Great Britain and Foreign Countries—Return for Certain Years, Ordered, *Feb. 20*, 816.
- Medical Service
  - Advisory Board, Scottish Medical Representation on.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 18*, 537.
  - Reorganisation Proposals.
    - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1312, 1319, 1320.
- Memorandum on Military Forces of United Kingdom, Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1219, 1224.
- Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry, *see those titles.*
- Officers
  - Disbanded Battalions — Position of Senior Officers.
    - *Q.* Col. Long; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1231.
  - Reserve — Universities and Public Schools Candidates, Conditions of Enrolment.
    - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1321–1324.
  - Supply of, Committee of Inquiry into, Findings of, etc.
    - *Os.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1321–1323.
    - Interim Report Presented, *Feb. 21*, 978, 1002.
- Ordnance Factories—Accounts Presented, *Feb. 20*, 813.
- Pay and Emoluments of Soldiers, Explanation of Order on.
  - *Qs.* Sir C. Dilke; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 21*, 1021.
- Pensions
  - Campbell, Honorary Major, W. S. Parr, Case of.
    - *Q.* Mr. Watt; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 26*, 1417.
  - M'Evoy, Patrick and T. Pike (or Pilk), Cases of,
    - *Qs.* Mr. Meehan; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 21*, 1008, 1009.
- *Personnel*, Reduction in.
  - *Os.* Mr. Arnold-Forster, *Feb. 25*, 1331; Mr. Guest, 1374.
  - Transfer of Officers of disbanded Regiments, Loss of Seniority involved by.
    - *Q.* Mr. Radford; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 18*, 535.
- Pimlico Clothing Factory—Annual Account Presented, *Feb. 20*, 814.
- References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

[*cont.*

Army—*cont.*
Reform Proposals.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12,* 7; Earl of Chichester, 13; Marquess of Lansdowne, 28; Marquess of Ripon, 37; Sir E. Sassoon, 119; Mr. Arnold-Forster, *Feb. 25,* 1330–1339; Sir C. Dilke, 1341; Sir H. Vincent, 1344; Mr. Guest, 1374–1378; Mr. Wyndham, 1378–1383.

Cost of.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1327, 1328.

Discussion, Arrangements for.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1327, 1328.

Preparedness for War the Keynote.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1284, 1285.

Statement (Mr. Haldane), *Feb. 25,* 1279–1330.

Reserve

A. Reserve, Increase in, for Purposes of a striking Force, etc.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1312, 1313.

Officers, *see under sub-heading,* Officers.

Position of, under new Scheme.
Os. Mr. Arnold-Forster, *Feb. 25,* 1335; Mr. Guest, 1375, 1376; Mr. Wyndham, 1382.

Salisbury Plain—Proposals for Allowing Civilians to erect permanent Buildings on.
Q. Captain Faber; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 14,* 297, 298.

Savings Banks Fund—Account Presented, *Feb. 18,* 497, 520.

Second Line or Territorial Army, Proposals as to Commands.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1306.

County Associations, Constitutino and Functions of.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1304–1306.

County Basis, Organisation on.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1300, 1302, 1304.

Divisional Organisation, Proposals as to.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1295–1298.

Duties of.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1303.

Estimate of, Cost Presented, *Feb. 25,* 1219, 1225.

Mobilisation for War Training, Proposals as to.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1301, 1302.

Rifle Clubs, Utilisation of.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1300.

Army—*cont.*
Second Line or Territorial Army—*cont.*

Terms of Enlistment, Proposals as to.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1299, 1300; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 1333, 1334.
Qs. Mr. Lyell, Captain Faber, Mr. A. Lee; *As.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 26,* 1419–1421.

Training, Proposals as to.
Os. Mr. Haldane *Feb. 25,* 1301.

Soldiers

Consumptive, Treatment of on Discharge—Provision of Sanatorium proposed.
Qs. Mr. Summerbell, Major Seely; *As.* Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 19,* 700, 701.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 20,* 817, 818.
Q. Major Seely; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 21,* 1007.

Death Sentences passed in 1906.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 18,* 536, 537.

Sword—Recommendation as to new Pattern for Cavalry.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1242.

Territorial Army, *see subheading,* Second Line.

Tidworth Barracks Sewage Disposal—Places of Manufacture of Engines and Pumps.
Q. Captain Faber; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 21,* 1007.

Tidworth Camp—Private Persons, Buildings erected by, Authorities consulted on Matter.
Q. Captain Faber; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 26,* 1419.

Training Battalions, Proposals for Formation of.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1313–1317.

Works Acts—Account Presented, *Feb. 20,* 814.

X-Rays, Tubes System of supplying.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 26,* 1418.

Army (Annual) Bill
Amendment, Decision as to.
Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 14,* 300.

Army Estimates
Effective and Non-effective Services—(1907–8)—Presented, *Feb. 19,* 691.

Memorandum (1907–8), Presented, *Feb. 19,* 673, 691.

Military Co-operation in framing, Policy of.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1281, 1282; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 1331; Sir C. Dilke, 1341, 1342.

[*cont.*

Army Estimates—*cont.*
  Reduction effected in.
    Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1279–1282.
  Supplementary Estimate, Presented, *Feb*, *21*, 1003.

Arnold-Forster, Rt. Hon. H. O. [Croydon]
  Army
    Artillery, Composition and Organisation of, *Feb. 25*, 1337.
    Auxiliary Forces—Reform Proposals *Feb. 25*, 1332.
    Personnel, Reduction in, *Feb. 25*, 1331.
    Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1330–1339.
    Reserve, Position of, under New Scheme, *Feb. 25*, 1335.
    Territorial Army, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1333–1336.
  Yeomanry, Reform Proposals, Information as to, *Feb. 25*, 1332.

Ashbourne, Lord
  Moray Firth, Trawling in, by Foreign Vessels, *Feb. 21*, 997, 998.
  Transvaal — Witwatersrand Association, Speech of Under-Secretary for the Colonies on *Dec. 18*, Reason for Cabling to South Africa, *Feb. 19*, 687, 688.

Ashley, Mr. W. W. [Lancashire, N., Blackpool]
  Africa, South—Ridgeway Commission of Inquiry, Constitution of, Date of Presenting Report, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1514–1516.
  Baghdad Railway, Progress made with. *Feb. 26*, 1429.
  Hague Conference, Subjects to be discussed at and Date of Meeting, *Feb. 21*, 1052.
  House of Commons—Secretaries' Room inadequate Accommodation in, *Feb. 21*, 1067.
  Morocco Railway Concessions, Information as to, *Feb. 21*, 1037.
  New Hebrides—Native Labour, Conditions of Employing, *Feb. 21*, 1030; *Feb. 26*, 1425.
    Female Labour, Provisions as to Employment of, *Feb. 21*, 1025.
    Housing Accommodation, *Feb. 26*, 1428.
  Parks and Gardens—Keepers, Wages and Pensions of, *Feb. 21*, 1063.
  Police Commission Report, Date of Publication of, *Feb. 26*, 1514.
  St. Helena—Flax Industry in, Grant-in-Aid for, *Feb. 26*, 1472, 1473.
  Sweden and Norway, New Treaty, Progress of Negotiations as to, *Feb. 26*, 1428.

Ashley, Mr. W. W.—*cont.*
  Transvaal Chinese Labour
    Repatriation, Cost of, Estimate for, *Feb. 26*, 1473.
    Suitability of the Chinese for Mining Work, *Feb. 26*, 1474.
    Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary for Ireland during Autumn Session, Information as to, *Feb. 21*, 1112.

Ashton-under-Lyne, Stalybridge and Dukinfield (District) Waterworks Bill
  l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
    2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1217.

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H., *Chancellor of the Exchequer* [Fife, E.]
  Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 588–594.
  Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906
    Evasion of by certain Landlords, Allegations as to and Proposals for Preventing, *Feb. 18*, 564.
    Postponement of Operation of—Advantage taken by certain Landlords, *Feb. 18*, 564.
  Agriculture, Board of, Office Accommodation, Improvement in, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 722.
  Beet Sugar, Suggestion for encouraging Cultivation, *Feb. 25*, 1274.
  Business of the House, Course of, *Feb. 20*, 855; *Feb. 21*, 1054.
  Channel Tunnel—Consideration of Scheme by Experts, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1272.
  Chertsey — Dog Licence exemptions granted by Magistrates, Necessity for Inquiry into cases, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1429, 1430.
  Church Discipline Bill, Intro., *Feb. 20*, 858.
  Colonial Conference, 1907—Colonial and Indian Representation at, *Feb. 19*, 721.
  Estate Duties—Settlement Estate Duty in case of Persons dying between 31st July, 1894 and 1898, Repayment of, *Feb. 18*, 546.
  Food and Drink, Revenue derived from Taxes on, *Feb. 18*, 549; *Feb. 21*, 1053, 1054.
  Gold Reserve, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 21*, 1053.
  Hague Conference, Subjects to be discussed at and Date of Meeting, *Feb. 21*, 1052.
  Home Rule—Government Attitude, and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 590, 592, 593.
  Housing of the Working Classes—Loans, Interest charged on, *Feb. 20*, 833.
  Income Tax
    Civil Servants, Liability of, *Feb. 26*, 1430.

[*cont.*

Asquith, Rt. Hon. H. H.—*cont.*
- Income Tax—*cont.*
  - Collection
    - Date of serving Final Notices in London, *Feb. 21*, 1054.
    - Issue of Ten-day Notices in England and Scotland, *Feb. 18*, 547, 548.
  - Postal Employees, Liability of, as to Overtime Earnings, *Feb. 26*, 1430.
- Irish Tobacco Bill, Facilities for Passage of, *Feb. 25*, 1273, 1274.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 222–227; *Feb. 18*, 587–597.
  - Eleven o'Clock Rule, Suspension of—Proposals as to Prolongation of Debate, *Feb. 18*, 565, 566.
- Land Act, 1903,—Stock, Conditions of issuing, etc., *Feb. 19*, 720, 721.
- Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 587.
- New Hebrides Convention—Parliamentary Discussion, Opportunity for, *Feb. 21*, 1052, 1053.
- Old Age Pensions
  - Budget Surplus, Allocating for Pensions, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 225, 226.
  - Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 222–227.
  - Number of Persons over Sixty-five, Cost of granting 5s. per Week to, etc., *Feb. 13*, 223.
- Parliament
  - Opening of, Inconvenience of Present Arrangements for—Use of Westminster Hall, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 563.
  - Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Adjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 595–597.
- Royal Academy of Art—Number of Academicians, *Feb. 25*, 1272.
- Saccharine Smuggling, Cases of, and Prosecutions for, *Feb. 25*, 1274.
- Securities, Fall in—Proposals for remedying Position, *Feb. 20*, 1432.
- Taxation of Luxuries, Suggested, *Feb. 26*, 1430.
- Transvaal Witwatersrand Association, Recruiting Methods of—Reason for, Cabling Under-Secretary's Speech, etc., *Feb. 18*, 547.
- Tullamore, Smuggling of Spirits at—Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Feb. 18*, 548.
- United States—British Ambassador, Salary of and Age for Retiring, *Feb. 25*, 1273.
- Worcester, New Writ for—Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14*, 324–326.

Attorney-General
- *Sir J. Walton.*

Attorney-General for Ireland
- *Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry.*

Australia
- (*See also* Names of States).
- Hatters, British, Refusal of Admission to.
  - *Os.* Mr. H. Cox, *Feb. 15*, 458; Mr. W. Redmond, 485.
- Import Duties on Products of New Hebrides, Revision of, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19*, 708.
- New Hebrides Convention—*see under* New Hebrides.

Australian States Constitution Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 674.
- 2R. *Feb. 26*, 1394.

Auxiliary Forces
- *See under* Army, *also titles* Militia, Volunteers, Yeomanry.

Bacup
- Carter prosecuted for Sleeping while on Duty—Proposals for Regulation of Hours of Labour, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. Jowett; *A.* Mr. Gladstone. *Feb. 26*, 1435.

Baghdad Railway
- Internationalisation of—Position of Great Britain, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Rees, Mr. Bowles; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 19*, 708, 709.
- Progress made with.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 26*, 1429.

Baines' Name Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493; *Feb. 26*, 1393.

Balcarres, Lord [Lancashire, N., Chorley]
- New Hebrides Convention—Provisions as to Employment of Female Labour, *Feb. 21*, 1025.

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J. [City of London]
- Administrative Changes in Ireland, *Feb. 12*, 68–70.
- Business of the House, Course of, *Feb. 21*, 1054.
- Colonial Conference
  - Omission of Mention from the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 64.
  - Permanent Staff to prepare Work for, Suggestions as to, *Feb. 20*, 870.
- Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contributions towards—Question of augmenting, *Feb. 15*, 464–469.
- Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill, Intro., *Feb. 26*, 1456–1458.

[*cont.*

Balfour, Rt. Hon. A. J.—*cont.*
- Fiscal Policy—Free Trade *v.* Protection
  - Government Attitude towards, *Feb. 12,* 73, 74.
  - Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 20,* 864–876, 894.
- Home Rule—Government Attitude, and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18,* 655–659.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12,* 62–78; *Feb. 15,* 464–469; *Feb. 18,* 649–661; *Feb. 20,* 864–876.
  - Eleven o'Clock Rule, Suspension of—Proposals as to Prolongation of Debates, *Feb. 18,* 565.
- Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18,* 660.
- New Hebrides
  - Convention with France, Provisions of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 12,* 75 88.
  - Indentured Labour in, Conditions of Service—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 12,* 76–78.
- Parliamentary Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Feb. 12,* 65–68; *Feb. 18,* 649–655.
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18,* 651–653.
- Patent Laws, Reform of—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12,* 73, 74.
- University Education in Ireland, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 12,* 71–73.

Balfour of Burleigh, Lord
- Moray Firth, Trawling in, by Foreign Vessels, etc.—Proposals for Settling Matter under Dispute, *Feb. 14,* 276 *Feb. 21,* 979.

Ballaghalin
- Fishing Pier, Decision as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Feb. 18,* 527, 528.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Halpin, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Cherry, *Feb. 25,* 1265, 1266.

Ballinakill Bay
- Oyster Beds—Rights of Certain Tenants.
  - *Q.* Mr. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Feb. 25,* 1236.

Banbridge
- Labourers' Cottages Supplemental Loan, Purpose of—Cost of Cottages, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. J. MacVeagh; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20,* 853, 854.

Banbury, Sir F. G. [London, City of]
- Estimates, Supplementary, Objections to System of, *Feb. 26,* 1487.
- Expenditure of School Boards—Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21,* 1133.

Banbury, Sir F. G.—*cont.*
- Home Rule—Government Attitude and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18,* 625.
- House of Commons
  - Committees, Expenditure of, Increase in Estimate of, *Feb. 21,* 1094.
  - Dining-room, New, Expenditure on, *Feb. 21,* 1081.
  - Division Lobby Doors, Closing of, proposed, *Feb. 21,* 1081.
  - Offices, Vote for, Increase in, Explanation and Criticism of Items, *Feb. 21,* 1093, 1094.
  - Shorthand Writers
    - Increase in Estimate for, *Feb. 21* 1094.
    - Printing of Reports, etc., Delay involved in sending to Reading, *Feb. 21,* 1101, 1102.
  - Ventilation of, Necessity for Improvement in, *Feb. 21,* 1080.
- Inebriate Homes in Ireland, Estimate for, *Feb. 21,* 1113, 1114.
- Irish Chief Secretary's Office—Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary during Autumn Session, *Feb. 21,* 1112, 1113.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18,* 623, 627.
- Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22,* 1215.
- Parks and Gardens—Reasons for Increase in Wages of Employees, *Feb. 21,* 1063, 1064, 1066.
- Parliamentary Election Petitions, Legal Expenses in connection with, Information as to, *Feb. 21,* 1121–1123, 1124.
- Parliamentary Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Feb. 18,* 624–627.
  - Dissolution, Right of the House of Lords to dictate as to, *Feb. 18,* 624.
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18,* 623, 624.
  - Precedents for Rejection of First Class Measures by the Lords in First Session of a New Parliament, *Feb. 18,* 624.
- St. Helena—Flax Industry in, Grant-in-aid for, *Feb. 26,* 1487, 1488.
- Securities, Fall in—Proposals for remedying Position, *Feb. 26,* 1432.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Conditions of Repatriation, Progress made, etc., *Feb. 26,* 1486, 1487.

Banffshire
- Parliamentary Election—New Writ issued, *Feb. 12,* 48.
  - New Member Sworn, *Feb. 20,* 856.

Bank of England
Applications for Advances to Government, Authorised by Parliament—Copy Presented, *Feb. 21*, 1142; *Feb. 25*, 1221.
Securities purchased by, etc.—Accounts Presented, *Feb. 12*, 47, 57.

Bann
Drainage Scheme, Progress made with.
Q. Mr. Moore; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 854.

Barnard, Mr. E. B. [Kidderminster]
Agriculture — Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up-to-date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 393.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 393.

Barnes, Mr. J. N. [Glasgow, Blackfriars]
Glasgow Postal Telegraph Staff Vacancies, Proposals for Filling, *Feb. 21*, 1005.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 215–221.
Old-age Pensions
Budget Surplus, allocating for Pensions, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 221.
Colonial Systems, *Feb. 13*, 218.
Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 216–221.
Number of Persons over Sixty-Five, Cost of granting 5s. per Week to, etc., *Feb. 13*, 217–218, 220.
Workhouses, Aged Persons in—Number and Cost of Maintenance, *Feb. 13*, 219,

Barrie, Mr. H. T. [Londonderry, N.]
Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of—Sum contributed by Irish Nationalist Party, *Feb. 12*, 130.
Home Rule
Irish Unionist Party, Attitude of, *Feb. 12*, 131, 132.
Nationalist Party Attitude, *Feb. 13*, 128–130.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 127–132.
Licensing Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 127.

Basingstoke Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 279.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1398.

Basutoland
Annual Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.

Bawnboy Union
Potato Crop, Condition of.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25*, 1268.

Beach, Mr. M. Hicks [Gloucestershire, Tewkesbury]
Inebriate Homes in Ireland, Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1110.
House of Commons, Ventilation, Necessity for Improvement in, *Feb. 21*, 1038.

Bechuanaland
Annual Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.

Beck, Mr. A. C. [Cambridge, Wisbech]
Gooseberry Mildew, Precautions Against Spread of, *Feb. 14*, 309.

Beers Estate
Sale proposals for.
Q. Mr. C. Mac Veigh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 19*, 718, 719.

Beet, Sugar
Cultivation, Proposals for Encouragement of.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 20*, 844.
Q. Mr. Fell; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 25*, 1274.

Belfast
Poor Relief Regulation as to Posting of Names, Abolition of, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1447, 1448.
Post Office
Engineering Department, Decision as to Transfer of.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 14*, 313, 314.
Telegraphist, Reason for Stopping at Efficiency Bar.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 21*, 1004, 1005.
Sanitary Condition, Inquiry into—Constitution of Commission.
Qs. Mr. McKillop, Mr. Mooney; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1050.

Belgium
Ankylostomiasis, Precaution taken against—Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40.

Bell, Mr. R. [Derby]
Castleton—Railway Accident to F. Wilkinson, *Feb. 21*, 1012.
Elliot Junction Railway Accident—Result of Inquiry, *Feb. 25*, 1264.
Railway Employees, Hours of Labour of—Measures taken to Prevent Excessive Hours in Certain Branches, *Feb. 15*, 414.

Bellaghy
Postal Mail Service to Castledawson, Allocation of Contract for.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 22*, 1145.

Bellairs, Mr. C. [Lynn Regis]
- Navy
  - Channel Fleet, Strength of, *Feb. 19*, 699.
  - Distribution under new Scheme, Particulars of, *Feb. 21*, 1014.
  - Manœuvres—Omissions from Report, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1006.
  - Shipbuilding—Allocation of Contracts for "Invincible" Class, *Feb. 19*, 699.
- West Indies, Naval Vessels in Neighbourhood of—Changes in Distribution under Present Government, *Feb. 14*, 298.

Belloc, Mr. H. V. P. R. [Salford, S.]
- Africa, East—Portuguese Native Labour Recruitment for Transvaal Mines—Result of Negotiations, *Feb. 14*, 304.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Renewal of Contracts, British Government Attitude Towards, *Feb. 14*, 304.

Bennett, Mr. E. N. [Oxfordshire, Woodstock]
- Congo Free State—Consent of Great Britain to Annexation by Belgium, *Feb. 19*, 709.

Beresford Whyte Estate
- Sale Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 22*, 1148.

"Berlin"
- Wreck of—Proposals for Recognising Bravery of Rescuers.
  - *Q.* Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Feb. 26*, 1450, 1451.

Bertram, Mr. J. [Hertfordshire, Hitchin]
- Education—Accounts of Associations of Schools, *Feb. 21*, 1006.

Bexhill
- War Office Land, Conditions of Selling.
  - *Q.* Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 26*, 1419.

Bills
- Ballot—Sessional Order Presented, *Feb. 13*, 158.
- Government Bills—Notices of Motion, *Feb. 12*, 58.

Birkenhead Corporation Water Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
- 2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1217.

Birmingham Corporation Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
- 2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1217.

Birmingham Corporation Water Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
- 2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*Chief Secretary for Ireland* [Bristol, N.]
- Administrative Changes, Proposals as to, *Feb. 13*, 200–203; *Feb. 18*, 665–668.
- Administrative Policy—Criticisms on Past and Present Administrations, *Feb. 13*, 198, 199.
- Agriculture Department—Veterinary Inspectors, Memorial from, *Feb. 22*, 1148.
- Arklow Harbour, Decision as to, *Feb. 18*, 532.
- Banbridge Labourers' Cottages Supplemental Loan, Purpose of, *Feb. 20*, 853, 854.
- Bann Drainage Scheme, Progress made with, *Feb. 20*, 854.
- Bawnboy Union Potato Crop, Condition of, *Feb. 25*, 1268.
- Beers Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 19*, 719.
- Belfast
  - Poor Relief Regulation as to Posting of Names, Abolition of, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1448.
  - Sanitary Condition, Inquiry into—Constitution of Commission, *Feb. 21*, 1050.
- Beresford Whyte Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 22*, 1148.
- Boycotting and Intimidation, *Feb. 13*, 197, 198.
  - Statistical Return proposed, *Feb. 20*, 854.
- Burnside Estate—Case of T. Sproulle, *Feb. 18*, 531.
- Caldbeck Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 25*, 1240.
- Chief Secretary's Office—Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary during Autumn Session, *Feb. 21*, 1109.
- Clanricarde Estates, Situation on—Treatment of Evicted Tenants, etc., *Feb. 14*, 368, 369.
- Clare, Land Sales effected in, *Feb. 18*, 561.
- Cork Constabulary—Reason for Employment of Extra Police in County, *Feb. 20*, 850.
- Corrib, Lough—Proposals for Ferry Service, *Feb. 21*, 1017.
- Crimelessness of Ireland, *Feb. 13*, 197.
- Crofton Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 22*, 1149.
- Cushendall Water Supply Schemes, Decision as to, *Feb. 21*, 1018.
- Digby Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 18*, 532.
- Drainage, Arterial—Date of Presenting Commission Report, *Feb. 21*, 1018.
- Dunraven Estate—Case of T. Drew, *Feb. 26*, 1446.

[*cont.*

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Dunshaughlin Labourers' Act Inquiry. Decision in, *Feb. 25*, 1266.
- Education
  - Grant—Comparison with Scotland, *Feb. 14*, 311.
  - Inspectors
    - Power of, to Interfere in Framing of Programmes of Instruction, *Feb. 15*, 416.
    - Visits, Rule as to Notifying, *Feb. 22*, 1150.
  - National School Teachers
    - Characters—Abolition of Periodical Certification, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1444.
    - Salaries, Procedure in Paying, *Feb. 26*, 1445.
    - University Degrees, Special Payment for Holding, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 311.
  - Night Schools, Number of, *Feb. 18*, 533.
  - Schools
    - Statistics as to Number, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1050.
    - Upkeep, Grant for Purposes of, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 562.
- Ely Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 25*, 1237.
- Erne, Lough, Fisheries—Crown Contribution towards Preservation, *Feb. 25*, 1237.
- Evictions — Progress made with Reinstatements, *Feb. 14*, 313, 364–371.
- Fairholme Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 26*, 1448.
- Falchorrib Marine Works, Proposals as to, *Feb. 22*, 1150.
- Flannery Estate—Case of J. Farrell, *Feb. 25*, 1239.
- Home Rule, Government Proposals as to, Necessity for defining, *Feb. 13*, 200.
- Housing of the Working Classes—Facilitating Issue of Loans proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1447.
- Inebriates Homes, Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1109, 1110, 1113.
- Irish International Exhibition, Government Assistance to, etc., *Feb. 25*, 1267.
- Irish Language, Teaching in Schools
  - Expenditure on, *Feb. 14*, 312.
  - Regulations for, *Feb. 18*, 561.
- Kilkeel
  - Hall erected on Labourers' Allotment, Allegations as to, *Feb. 20*, 849.
  - Land acquired by Rural District Council, Procedure in Reconveying to Occupiers, *Feb. 22*, 1149.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 196–203; *Feb. 14*, 364–371; *Feb. 18*, 661–668.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Kinvara Harbour Works, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1268, 1269.
- Labourers' Acts, Acquisition of Land under—Distribution of Form 6, *Feb. 20*, 846, 847.
- Land Commission
  - Fair Rent Appeals—Cases pending, Number struck out, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1049; *Feb. 26*, 1402.
  - Sub-Commissionership, Conditions of Appointments to, *Feb. 25*, 1268.
  - Temporary Lay Assistant Commissioners, Number of, and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 562.
  - Wilkinson, Mr., Offices held by, *Feb. 18*, 560.
- Land Judge's Court, Estates in, over which Receivers have been appointed—Return proposed, *Feb. 19*, 695.
- Land Purchase
  - Advances—Number applied for, and Proposals for Expediting Business, *Feb. 20*, 851.
  - Annuities—Writs issued for Recovery, *Feb. 20*, 848.
  - Bonus, Cases of paying—Return proposed, *Feb. 20*, 848.
  - Priority—Regulations as to Procedure, *Feb. 21*, 1049.
  - Transactions, Information as to Proposals for Expediting Procedure, *Feb. 21*, 1047.
- Law Courts—Appointment of Sergeant Dodd to High Court of Appeal Judgeship, *Feb. 25*, 1270, 1359.
- Liscarroll—Decision as to abandoning Glenfield Experimental Farm, *Feb. 20*, 851.
- Lloyd Estate, Sale Proposals for—Reinstatement Claim of Ellen Reilly, *Feb. 21*, 1018.
- Marshall Estate—Inspection, Proposals for, *Feb. 15*, 416.
- Middleton Land Commission Sitting, Date of, *Feb. 14*, 297.
- Morley Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 21*, 1048.
- Mountshannon Estate, Sale Proposals for and Settlement of Claims of Evicted Tenants, *Feb. 26*, 1445, 1446.
- O'Brien Estate, Sale Negotiations, Progress made with, *Feb. 21*, 1050.
- O'Dwyer Estate, Sale of—Reinstatement Claim of P. Hogan, *Feb. 21*, 1049.
- Parliamentary Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Readjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 662–664.
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18*, 662.
  - Partisanship of the Lords, Allegations as to, *Feb. 18*, 663.
- Poor Law Relieving Officers, Qualifications required of, *Feb. 26*, 1446, 1447.

Birrell, Rt. Hon. A.—*cont.*
- Potato Crop, Fear of Failure of and Proposals for dealing with Distress, *Feb. 14*, 312 ; *Feb. 20*, 849.
- Prison Warders, Hours of Duty of, *Feb. 18*, 533.
- Queen's County Evicted Tenants, Number of, and Progress made with Reinstatements, *Feb. 25*, 1238.
- Reenard Pier, Proposals as to, *Feb. 14*, 313 ; *Feb. 20*, 853.
- Roscommon
  - Land Purchase Transactions in, *Feb. 21*, 1047.
  - Untenanted Land, Purchase Proposals for, *Feb. 26*, 1416.
- Thompson (Clonfin) Estate, Untenanted Land, Disposal of, *Feb. 21*, 1050.
- Tottenham Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 22*, 1149.
- Trinity College Estates Commission, Proposals for Carrying out Recommendations of, *Feb. 20*, 852.
- Weir Estate Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of—Case of J. Walmsley, *Feb. 20*, 820.
- Winn Estate, Sale Proposals for—Terms of Purchase, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1048.

Boland, Mr. J. P. [Kerry, S.]
- Hibernian Academy, Royal—Decision as to Recommendation of Commission, *Feb. 19*, 719.
- Reenard Pier, Proposals as to, *Feb. 14*, 313 ; *Feb. 20*, 852.
- Winn Estate, Sale Proposals for—Terms of Purchase, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1048.

Borax Consolidated Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Bottomley, Mr. H. W. [Hackney, S.]
- Agriculture and Fisheries Board, Constitution of, etc., *Feb. 25*, 1260.
- Colonial Conference, 1907—Resolutions, Procedure in Considering, *Feb. 26*, 1424.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 211–215.
- Licensing Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 214.
- Local Government Board, Constitution of, and Occasions of Meeting, *Feb. 18*, 554, 555.
- New Hebrides, Indentured Labour in—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 13*, 211–213.
- Old Age Pensions, Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 13*, 213.
- Parliamentary Differences between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 13*, 213, 214.

Boulton, Mr. A. C. F. [Hunts, Ramsey]
- Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contributions towards, Question of Augmenting—Bringing Question before Colonial Conference, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 487–490.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 487–490.

Bowerman, Mr. C. W. [Deptford]
- Telegraphists, Provincial Female, Reason for Issue of Circular to, Inviting Applications for Transfer to London, *Feb. 22*, 1147.

Bowles, Mr. G. S. [Lambeth, Norwood]
- Baghdad Railway, Internationalisation of—Position of Great Britain, *Feb. 19*, 709.
- Estimates, Supplementary, Objections to System of, *Feb. 26*, 1496–1498.
- Gateshead—Decision in Maughan Case, *Feb. 20*, 836.
- Naval Canteen System Inquiry, Report of, *Feb. 20*, 826.
- Persia—Attitude of New Parliament towards Enterprises of British and Foreign Subjects, *Feb. 19*, 710.
- St. Helena—Flax Industry in, Grant-in-aid for, *Feb. 26*, 1498.
- Stockport Post Office Messenger, Reason for Dismissal of, *Feb. 25*, 1257.
- Unemployed Returns of Board of Trade, Information given in, *Feb. 25*, 1250.

Brace, Mr. W. [Glamorgan, S.]
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 240–242 ; *Feb. 20*, 945.
- Old Age Pensions—Necessity for dealing with Question, *Feb. 13*, 240–242.
- Unemployed—Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 945.

Bradford
- Drunkenness, Cause for Increase in—Number of Drinking Clubs, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. T. Davies ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 20*, 834.

Bramsdon, Mr. T. A. [Portsmouth]
- Admiralty Meat Contracts—Regulations as to Supply of Tinned Meat Rations, *Feb. 19*, 691.
- Greenwich Hospital Age Pensions, Conditions of Granting, etc., *Feb. 19*, 697.
- Navy
  - Dockyard Wages
    - Chargemen, Wages of, *Feb. 26*, 1401.
    - Cost of Increase of, *Feb. 19*, 697.
  - Stokers Performing Clerical Duties, Pay of, *Feb. 19*, 692.

Brazil
Geneva Convention, Accession to—Treaty Presented, *Feb. 20*, 815 ; *Feb. 21*, 977.

Brecon and Merthyr Tydfil Junction Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 279.

Brewers' Licences
See under Liquor Traffic.

Bridgeman, Mr. W. C. [Shropshire, Oswestry]
Exports and Imports, Relative Prices of, and Relative Quantities—Comparison of, in 1905 and 1906, *Feb. 20*, 939, 940.
Kings' Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20*, 937–941.
Unemployed
  Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 938.
  Hours of Labour, Reduction of, in all Trades, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 938.
  Wheat, Price of, Relation of to Number of Unemployed, *Feb. 20*, 940.

Brigg, Mr. J. [Yorkshire, W.R., Keighley]
Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for Bringing up to date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 392, 393.
Kings' Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 392.
Schools in Ireland, Statistics as to Number etc., *Feb. 21*, 1050.

Brighouse Corporation Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 279.
2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Bright, Mr. J. A. [Oldham]
House of Commons Ventilation, Necessity for Improvement in, *Feb. 21*, 1083.

Bristol Corporation Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 279.

British Guiana and British Honduras
See titles Guiana and Honduras

British Museum
Accounts, Number of Visitors, Additions to Collections, etc., (1906–7)—Return Ordered, *Feb. 25*, 1225.

Broadstairs and St. Peter's Urban District Water Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Brockenhurst Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 280.
2R.* *Feb. 22*, 1141.

Bryce, Mr. J. A. [Inverness Burghs]
India
  Army—Pay of Officers of Supply and Transport Corps, *Feb. 25*, 1245.
  Railways—Deficiency of Rolling Stock, *Feb. 25*, 1244.

Buchanan, Mr. T. R.—*Financial Secretary, War Office* [Perthshire, E.]
Egypt—Method of Slaughtering Cattle for Use of British Garrison, *Feb. 19*, 700.
Militia
  Fleetwood Camp, Date of Presenting Report on, *Feb. 19*, 702.
  Reduction of Battalions, Proposals as to, *Feb. 19*, 700.
Soldiers, Consumptive—Treatment on Discharge, *Feb. 19*, 701.
War Office
  Canned Foodstuffs—Facilities for Colonial Firms to Tender for Contracts, *Feb. 19*, 701.
  Contracts, Observance of Fair Wages Clause in Rate paid by Messrs. Arundle, *Feb. 19*, 702.

Bude Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 280.
2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Building Societies
Report of Registrar Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1220, 1225.

Burma
Flogging as Judicial Punishment—Number of Sentences, etc.
  Q. Dr. Rutherford ; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*, 703, 704.
Gotgeik Railway Bridge, Stability of.
  Q. Mr. Walsh ; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21*, 1016.
Rangoon Gaol—Allegations as to Flogging of Prisoner awaiting Trial.
  Q. Dr. Rutherford ; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*, 703.

Burnham (Somerset) Pier Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*President of the Local Government Board* [Battersea]
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis
  Aliens, Likelihood of Introduction by, *Feb. 25*, 1253.
  Circular and Report, Date of Presenting, *Feb. 22*, 1144.
  Inclusion of, in Notification of Diseases Act, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 158.
    Local Authorities, Applications from, *Feb. 14*, 291.
  Measures taken to deal with Outbreak, *Feb. 20*, 822, 840, 841.

[*cont.*

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- County Council Control of Standing Joint Committee Expenditure—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 19*, 712.
- Derby Union Workhouse—Vaccination Fee of Medical Officer, *Feb. 20*, 841.
- Emigration, Encouragement of, by Local Authorities — Legislation to extend Powers, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 554.
- Hollesley Bay Labour Colony—Amount of Local Government Board Grant to, *Feb. 20*, 956.
- Infant Mortality—Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Feb. 25*, 1255.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 257–261; *Feb. 14*, 471, 472; *Feb. 20*, 952–962.
- Local Authorities, Loans to—Legality of Payments to Permanent Staff, *Feb. 25*, 1256.
- Local Government Board, Constitution of and Occasions of Meeting, *Feb. 18*, 554, 555.
- London
  - Case of Michael Hayes—Reason for Non-provision of Shoes, etc., by Poor Law Guardians, *Feb. 19*, 713, 714; *Feb. 26*, 1437.
  - Deaths from Starvation during 1906 and Deaths in Whitechapel (1870–1906) from the same Cause, *Feb. 19*, 714.
- Milk, Sale of
  - Procedure in Prosecutions for Adulteration, *Feb. 20*, 842.
  - Proposals for adopting Recommendations of Commission, *Feb. 25*, 1255.
- Motors, Legislative Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 25*, 1256.
- Old-age Pensions
  - Manufactured Imports, Ten per cent. Tax on, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 258.
  - Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 257.
  - Number of Persons over Sixty-five, Cost of granting 5s. per week to, etc., *Feb. 13*, 259.
  - Statistical Information, Lack of, Proposals for Facilitating Accurate Returns, *Feb. 13*, 259, 260.
- Piccadilly—Reason for Delay in re-paving, *Feb. 20*, 821.
- Poor Law
  - Administration
    - Cost of, *Feb. 26*, 1436.
    - Expenditure on (1834–1906) *Feb. 21*, 1010; *Feb. 22*, 1144.
  - Children—Date of Issue of Boarding-out Order, *Feb. 22*, 1144.
  - Filial Liability for Support of Parents—Amendment of Law as to Married Daughters, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 555.

Burns, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Poor Law—*cont.*
  - Pauperism—Total Number of Paupers on 1st January, 1907, *Feb. 20*, 819.
  - Reform, Resolutions and Petitions in favour of, *Feb. 26*, 1405.
  - Relieving Officers' Charges for Conveyance of Persons to Asylums (1896–1906) *Feb. 20*, 821.
  - Royal Commissions—Date of Presenting Report, *Feb. 18*, 555.
  - Step-fathers, Liability of, for Maintenance—Amendment of Law, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 820.
- Public Health Acts, Printing of, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1254.
- Tuberculosis Commission Report, Cost of, *Feb. 14*, 291.
- Unemployed
  - Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 957, 958.
  - Drink, Amount spent on Annually by the Working Classes, *Feb. 20*, 962.
  - Failure of the Government to deal with the Question, alleged, *Feb. 20*, 954–958.
  - Fund, Allocation of, *Feb. 20*, 955 958.
  - Proposals for dealing with, Information as to, *Feb. 20*, 952, 953, 960–962.
  - State Relief Works, Objections to Establishment of, *Feb. 20*, 954.
  - Waste Land, Reclamation of, by Means of the Unemployed, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 956, 957.
- Vaccination
  - Exemption Certificates, Procedure as to granting, *Feb. 14*, 411, 412,
  - Kelsch, Dr., Report of, on Experiment at Lamb's Conduit Street, *Feb. 25*, 1252.
  - Legislative Measure to be introduced, *Feb. 14*, 411.
  - Lymph—Measures taken to ensure Purity, *Feb. 20*, 840; *Feb. 25*, 1257.
  - Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 411.
- West Bridgeford Loan, Payments to Labourers out of, *Feb. 25*, 1256.
- Westminster City Council Contracts, Auditor's Report on—Inquiry proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1254.

Burnside Estate
- Sproulle, T., Case of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 531.

Business of the House
- Course of.
  - *Os.* Sir C. Dilke, Mr. W. Long, Mr. K. Hardie, Sir H. Cotton, Mr. Speaker, Mr. G. White, Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 20.* 855; Mr. A. J. Balfour, Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 21,* 1054.
- Proposals as to—Possibility of Autumn Session, etc.
  - *Os.* Marquess of Lansdowne, *Feb. 12,* 27, 31.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*Postmaster-General* [Tower Hamlets, Poplar]
- Aberdeen Underground Telegraph Cable, Expediting Laying of, proposed, *Feb. 14,* 309.
- Annual Leave Regulations—Application of Order in Council of 15th August, 1890, proposed, *Feb. 21,* 1004.
- Belfast
  - Engineering Department, Decision as to Transfer of, *Feb. 14,* 314.
  - Telegraphist—Reason for Stopping at Efficiency Bar, *Feb. 21,* 1005.
- Bellaghy Postal Service to Castledawson, Allocation of Contract for, *Feb. 22,* 1145.
- Christmas and New Year's Day, Holiday Arrangements for, in England and Scotland, *Feb 19,* 715; *Feb. 25,* 1235.
- Dernacrieve Post Office, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25,* 1271.
- Dublin Mail Cart Drivers, Conditions of Labour of, *Feb. 22,* 1143.
- Dunfanaghy Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Feb. 22,* 1145.
- Enniskillen Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Feb. 19,* 692, 693.
- Glasgow
  - Inspector of Postmen, Junior Assistant, Employment of, on Special Duties, *Feb. 18,* 529.
  - Telegraph Staff Vacancies, Proposals for filling, *Feb. 21,* 1005.
  - Telephone Service, Municipal—Conditions of Transfer of Employees to Post Office Service, *Feb. 18,* 522.
- Grays—Cause for Dismissal of Telegraph Boys, *Feb. 20,* 842.
- Huddersfield Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Feb. 22,* 1143.
- Kinvara Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Feb. 25,* 1271.
- Licensed Premises, Post Offices on—Return proposed, *Feb. 21,* 1040.
- Mail Cart Drivers,—Wages and Conditions of Labour, *Feb. 19,* 715; *Feb. 20,* 843.
- Mail Service
  - American
    - Effect of proposed Changes in Route, *Feb. 14,* 314, 315.
    - Mail Sorting Arrangements at Sea and in Train, *Feb. 26,* 1449.

Buxton, Rt. Hon. S. C.—*cont.*
- Penny Post with United States, Progress of Negotiations as to, *Feb. 20,* 843.
- Postal Orders issued and paid in 1905–6, *Feb. 26,* 1405.
- Postmasterships, Appointments to, in Great Britain and Ireland, *Feb. 26,* 1406.
- Postmen, Auxiliary, Wages of—Case of A. Wilson, *Feb. 14,* 309.
- Registration, Scale of Charges for, *Feb. 21,* 1040.
- Robertsbridge Telephone Service, Proposals as to, *Feb. 19,* 694.
- Rural Districts, Conditions of extending Postal Facilities in, *Feb. 25,* 1258.
- Savings Bank
  - Deposits and Withdrawals in Ireland, *Feb. 26,* 1405.
  - Hours of Business, Extension of, proposed, *Feb. 19,* 693.
- Stoke Newington Post Office Accommodation, Inadequacy of and Proposals for improving, *Feb. 25,* 1235.
- Stockport—Reason for Dismissal of Messenger, *Feb. 25,* 1257; *Feb. 26,* 1438.
- Telegraph Service—Circular inviting Applications for Transfer of Female Provincial Operators to London, Reason for Issue of, *Feb. 22,* 1148.

Butter and Margarine Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 317.
- Memorandum on certain Acts, Printing of.
  - *Q.* Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 25,* 1259, 1260.

Byles, Mr. W. P. [Salford, N.]
- Alien Employers of British Labour, *Feb. 25,* 1247.
- Worcester, New Writ for—Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14,* 324.

Byrne's Divorce Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 26,* 1393.

Caldbeck Estate
- Sale Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25,* 1239, 1240.

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H.—*First Lord of the Treasury* [Stirling Burghs]
- "Berlin" Wreck of—Proposals for Recognition of Bravery of Rescuers, *Feb. 26,* 1451.
- Census—Number of Males over Twenty-one in United Kingdom, *Feb. 26,* 1450.
- Colonial Conference—Omission of Mention in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12,* 79.
- Comptroller and Auditor General, System of appointing, *Feb. 19,* 696.
- Fiscal Policy—Free Trade *v.* Protection, Government Attitude towards, *Feb. 12,* 87.

[*cont.*

Campbell-Bannerman, Rt. Hon. Sir H.—*cont.*
- Hague Conference, Appeal to, from Prize Courts, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 696.
- Ireland
  - Administrative Changes, *Feb. 12*, 85.
  - University Education, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 12*, 86.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 70, 78–89.
- New Hebrides
  - Convention with France, Provisions of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 12*, 87–89.
  - Indentured Labour in, Conditions of Service—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 12*, 89.
- Parliamentary Elections—Number of Men registered as Electors, *Feb. 26*, 1450.
- Parliamentary Procedure
  - Allocation of Time to, as to obviate Application of Closure proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1450.
  - Reform Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 89.
- Parliamentary Relations between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 12*, 80–85.

Canada
- Sikhs destitute in, Allegations as to and Provision for Repatriation, etc.
  Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18*, 539.

Canned Foodstuffs
- War Office, *see that title.*

Caradog Vale Colliery
- Inundation—Reports Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1219, 1224.

Cardiff Railway Bill
- c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 280.

Carlile, Mr. E. H. [Herts, St. Albans]
- Home Rule—Government Attitude and Proposals as to, *Feb 18*, 597, 598.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 386–388; *Feb. 18*, 597–600.
- Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 598.
- New Hebrides Convention, Procedure for ratifying, *Feb. 21*, 1038.
- Parliamentary Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for readjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 599, 600,
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18*, 599.
- Rothampsted Experimental Station, Work done at—Government Grant, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 386–388.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour, Importation Statistics as to, and Reason for continuing, *Feb. 14*, 301.

Carnarvonshire Slate Quarries
- Accidents in, Cause of—Inquiry proposed.
  Q. Mr. E. Davies; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 26*, 1434, 1435.

Castlereagh, Lord [Maidstone]
- Aliens—Refusals of Leave to Land, Information given in Return, *Feb. 21*, 1038, 1039.
- Egypt—Method of slaughtering Cattle for use of British Garrison, *Feb. 19*, 700; *Feb. 20*, 817.
- Law Courts—Appointment of Sergeant Dodd to Irish Judgeship, *Feb. 25*, 1353.
- Newfoundland Fisheries, *Modus Vivendi* with United States as to—Date of lapsing and Proposals for renewing, *Feb. 20*, 829.

Castleton
- Railway Accident to F. Wilkinson—Proposals as to Inquiry.
  Q. Mr. Bell; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Feb. 21*, 1012, 1013.

Castletown, Lord
- Administrative Changes in Ireland, *Feb. 12*, 8–10.
- Afghanistan—Visit of Ameer to India, *Feb. 12*, 6.
- Army Reorganisation Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 7.
- Goschen, Viscount, Death of—Tributes to Services of, etc., *Feb. 12*, 12.
- Housing of the Working Classes Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 11.
- India—Administration Policy, *Feb. 12*, 6.
- Jamaica—Earthquake in Kingstown, *Feb. 12*, 5.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 4–12.
- Land Tenure, Scotland—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 8.
- Morocco—Algeciras Conference, Results of, *Feb. 12*, 4.
- New Hebrides Convention with France, Provisions of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 12*, 5.
- Parliamentary Relations between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 12*, 6, 7.
- Small Holdings Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 11.
- University Education in Ireland, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 12*, 10, 11.

Cattle
- Irish, Allegations as to Tuberculation of—Inquiry proposed.
  Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 14*, 292.

Cave, Mr. G. [Surrey, Kingston]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 412; *Feb. 15*, 424–429.
Vaccination
Efficacy of, as a Preventive of Small-pox, *Feb. 15*, 426, 427.
Legislative Measure to be introduced, *Feb. 15*, 425.
Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 412; *Feb. 15*, 424–429.

Cavehill and Whitewall Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Cavendish, Rt. Hon. V. C. W. [Derbyshire, W.]
Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up to date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 391, 392.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 227; *Feb. 14*, 391, 392.
Land Values (Scotland) Bill, Expenditure of Committee on, *Feb. 21*, 1096.
Old Age Pensions—Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 227.
Parliament
House of Commons Committees, Expenditure of, Increase in Estimate for, *Feb 21*, 1095.
Houses of—Vote for Buildings, *Feb. 21*, 1074.
Papers, Distribution of, Date of carrying out Recommendations of Committee, *Feb. 21*, 1095.

Cecil, Lord R. [Marylebone, E.]
Butter and Margarine Bill—Printing of Memorandum on Certain Acts, *Feb. 25*, 1259.
Church Discipline Bill, *Intro.*, *Feb. 20*, 858.
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1159–1166, 1176, 1187.
New Hebrides Convention
Parliamentary Discussion, Opportunity for, *Feb. 21*, 1052, 1053.
Proposals for Legislation to Carry into Effect, *Feb. 21*, 1027.
Police Commission Report, Opportunity for Discussion, *Feb. 26*, 1521.
Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, Conditions of giving Assistance under, *Feb. 20*, 835.
Provident Societies—Registration Fee, New Regulations as to, *Feb. 18*, 549.
Public Health Acts, Printing of, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1254.
Swansea Education Dispute, Decision in, *Feb. 14*, 310.
Welsh Education Department, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1258.

Cecil, Lord R.—*cont.*
Worcester, Borough of, New Writ for—Motion for Issue of, Time given for, Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14*, 323.

Cecil, Mr. E. [Aston Manor]
Colonial Conference, 1907, Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 19*, 732.
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 732–737.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 737–746.
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1195–1199.

Census
Number of Males over Twenty-one in United Kingdom.
Q. Mr. C. Money; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Feb. 26*, 1450.

Central London Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 280.

Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
Aliens, Likelihood of Disease being brought by, etc.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25*, 1253.
Circular and Report, Date of Presenting.
Q. Sir F. Channing; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 22*, 1144.
Inclusion in Notification of Diseases Act, proposed.
Q. Sir F. Channing; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 13*, 158.
Local Authorities, Applications from.
Q. Sir F. Channing; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 14*, 291.
Measures taken to deal with Outbreak.
Q. Sir F. Channing; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 822.
Qs. Mr. J. W. Wilson, Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 840, 841.

Chairman
Civil Service Estimates
Subjects irrelevant to Vote under Discussion, *Feb. 21*, 1058, 1059, 1061, 1063, 1076, 1077, 1082, 1085, 1097, 1098, 1103, 1104, 1108, 1119, 1133, 1136.
Matter irrelevant to Vote under Discussion, *Feb. 26*, 1466, 1470, 1474, 1489, 1490, 1491, 1492, 1493.
"Nonsense," Allegations of, against Member, *Feb. 21*, 1135.
Question, Discretion of Chairman as to Putting, *Feb. 26*, 1522, 1524.

Chamberlain, Rt. Hon. J. A. [Worcestershire, E.]
  Crofters' Commission
    Assessors, Information as to, Appointment of, *Feb. 21*, 1129.
    Chairman, Name, Salary, etc., of., *Feb. 21*, 1129.
  Expenditure of Scottish School Boards—Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1132.
  Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 20*, 906–920.
  Government Departments—Decision as to increasing Wages of Employees, *Feb. 21*, 1062, 1066.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 261–265; *Feb. 20*, 906–920.
  Old Age Pensions
    Friendly Societies, Securing Co-operation of, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 262.
    Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 261–265.
    Number of Persons over Sixty-five, Cost of granting 5s. per Week to, etc., *Feb. 13*, 263.
  Parks and Gardens, Reason for Increase in Wages of Employees, *Feb. 31*, 1062, 1066.

Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
  Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fowler.

Chancellor of the Exchequer
  Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith.

Channel Tunnel
  Consideration of Scheme by Experts, proposed.
    Q. Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 25*, 1272.

Channel Tunnel Railway Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 280.

Channing, Sir F. A. [Northants, E.]
  Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up-to-date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 380–383.
  Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis
    Circular and Report, Date of Presenting, *Feb. 22*, 1144.
    Inclusion of, in Notification of Diseases Act, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 158.
      Local Authorities, Application from, *Feb. 14*, 291.
    Measures taken to deal with Outbreak, *Feb. 20*, 822.
  Kings' Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 380–383.

Channing, Sir F. A.—*cont.*
  Portsmouth Barracks Disturbance—Reconsideration of Sentences, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 522.
  Railway Employees, Hours of Labour of—Information given in Returns, *Feb. 22*, 1146.

Chelsea Hospital
  Accounts Presented, *Feb. 20*, 814.

Cherry, Rt. Hon. R. R.—*Attorney-General for Ireland* [Liverpool Exchange]
  Ballaghaline Pier, Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 528; *Feb. 25*, 1265, 1266.
  Ballinakill Bay Oyster Beds—Rights of certain Tenants, *Feb. 25*, 1236.
  Juror's Lists, Procedure in furnishing, *Feb. 26*, 1415.
  Labourers (Ireland) Acts
    Urban Districts, Extension to, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1046.

Chertsey
  Dog Licence Exemptions granted by Magistrates—Necessity for Inquiry into Cases, etc.
    Q. Mr. Marnham; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 26*, 1429, 1430.

Chichester, Earl of
  Army Reorganisation Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 13.
  Criminal Appeal Court—Proposals as to Establishment, *Feb. 12*, 14.
  Goschen, Viscount, Death of—Tributes to Services of, etc., *Feb. 12*, 12.
  Housing of the Working Classes Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 17.
  Jamaica—Earthquake in Kingstown, *Feb. 12*, 13.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 12–18.
  Land Valuation, England and Wales—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 15.
  Licensing Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 13.
  Mines (Hours of Labour) Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 14.
  Patent Laws, Reform of—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 15.
  Small Holdings Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 16.
  Women, Eligibility of, for serving on Local Bodies—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 15.

Chief Secretary for Ireland—*Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.*

Children
  Factories, Employment in, *See* Factories—Child Labour.
    Juvenile Offenders, *see that title.*
  Poor Law, *see that title.*

[*cont.*

Children—*cont.*
- (Amendment) Order in Council Presented, *Feb. 21*, 978, 1002.
- Consular and Marriage Fees—Order in Council, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 56.
- Opium, *see that title.*

Church Discipline Bill
- c. Intro., and 1R.* *Feb. 20*, 856, 859.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*Under-Secretary for the Colonies* [Manchester, N.W.]
- Africa, East
  - Chinese—Decision as to British Concession, *Feb. 26*, 1423, 1424.
  - Indian Penal Code in British Protectorate, Substitution of English Law for, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 831.
  - Liquor Traffic—Regulations as to Importation, etc., *Feb. 14*, 290.
  - Portuguese Native Labour Recruitment for Transvaal Mines—Result of Negotiations, *Feb. 14*, 304, 305.
    - Commission of Inquiry, Proposals as to, *Feb. 20*, 830.
    - Facilities afforded to other Mines than Robinson Group, *Feb. 20*, 830.
- Africa, German South-West, Use of Wireless Telegraphy in Military Operations—Reports furnished to War Office, *Feb. 18*, 540.
- Africa South
  - British Indians, Trading Rights of, *Feb. 19*, 706.
  - Ridgeway Commission of Inquiry, Constitution of, Date of Presenting Report, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1512, 1513.
- Australasian Import Duties on Products of New Hebrides, Revision of, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 708.
- Canada, Sikhs destitute in—Allegations as to, and Provision for Repatriation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 539.
- Colonial Conference, 1907
  - Calling of—Proposals for Tabling Correspondence, etc., *Feb. 20*, 830.
  - High Commissionership of Western Pacific, Discussion of Question of, *Feb. 19*, 707, 708.
  - Omission of mention in the King's Speech, *Feb. 19*, 804, 805.
  - Preference, Opportunity for Discussing, *Feb. 12*, 132, 133.
  - Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 544.
  - Resolutions, Procedure in considering, *Feb. 26*, 1424.
- Colonies, Objections to Party Capital made out of, by the Mother Country, *Feb. 19*, 810, 811.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*
- Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contributions towards, Question of augmenting, *Feb. 15*, 469–476.
- Estimates, Supplementary, Objections to System of, *Feb. 26*, 1494.
- Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 803–812.
- Imperial Institute, Work of Crown Agents in connection with, *Feb. 21*, 1033.
- Jamaica Earthquake—Grant towards Relief of Distress, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 544.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12* 312–142; *Feb. 15*, 469–476; *Feb. 19*, 803–812.
- Lagos—Jekri Dock Labourers, Illegal Flogging of, Punishment meted out to Official responsible, *Feb. 14*, 305, 306
- Natal
  - Arab Storekeepers, Trading Licences of, *Feb. 19*, 706.
  - British Indians, Franchise Rights, etc., of, *Feb. 18*, 540; *Feb. 20*, 828; *Feb. 26*, 1425, 1426.
  - Dinizulu, Action by, against Mr. Daniels, *Feb. 26*, 1426.
  - Tongaat Village—Trading Licences of Indian Storekeepers, *Feb. 21*, 1028.
  - Trading Licences, Conditions of granting, *Feb. 18*, 525.
  - Vrededorp Stands Ordinance, Operation of, *Feb. 21*, 1029.
- New Hebrides
  - Administration — Appointment of separate High Commissioners, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 707.
  - British Resident Commissioner, Name of, *Feb. 20*, 829.
  - Convention
    - Australasian Governments, Consultation of, *Feb. 12*, 133–135, *Feb. 21*, 1031, 1032.
    - Opium, Reason for not Prohibiting Supply of to Natives, *Feb. 21*, 1029.
    - Proposals for Proclaiming, *Feb. 20*, 829; *Feb. 21*, 1027.
  - Native Labour, Conditions of Employing, *Feb 12*, 136–141; *Feb. 21*, 1029–1031; *Feb. 26*, 1425, 1426.
    - Child Labour, Provisions as to, *Feb. 19*, 706, 707; *Feb. 26*, 1423.
    - Female Labour, Provisions of Convention as to Employment of, *Feb. 21*, 1024–1027, 1031.
    - Housing Accommodation, *Feb. 26*, 1428.

[*cont.*

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*
- Newfoundland Fisheries—*Modus Vivendi* with United States
  - Correspondence, Proposals as to Publishing, *Feb. 18*, 541, 542.
  - Date of Lapsing and Proposals for Renewing, *Feb. 20*, 829.
- Opium
  - Cure for Opium Habit, Information as to, *Feb. 19*, 708.
  - Straits Settlements Anti-opium Movement, Information as to, *Feb. 19*, 708.
- St. Helena—Flax Industry in, Grant-in-Aid for, *Feb. 26*, 1475–1477.
- Selangor Native Government Contribution towards erection of Mosque, *Feb. 14*, 289.
- Transvaal
  - Chinese Labour
    - Crime, Statistics and Information as to, *Feb. 18*, 542, 543.
    - Importation, Statistics as to, and Reason for Continuing, *Feb. 14*, 300, 301.
    - Licences issued—Statistics as to Wastage and Number of Coolies employed, *Feb. 18*, 525.
    - Renewal of Contracts, British Government Attitude towards, *Feb. 14*, 304.
    - Repatriation
      - Conditions of, Progress made, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1477–1480.
      - Cost of, Estimate for, *Feb. 26*, 1477–1480, 1495.
      - Number Effected—Number and cause of Refusals, etc., *Feb. 14*, 303, 304; *Feb. 21*, 1009; *Feb. 26*, 1427.
  - Constitution—Proposals for Nominating Upper Chamber, *Feb. 18*, 543; *Feb. 21*, 1032.
  - Elections, Granting Public Holiday for, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 543.
  - Financial Condition and Gold Output (1904–6), *Feb. 14*, 301.
  - Mines—Result of Experiments with Drill, *Feb. 14*, 305.
  - Native Labour—Recruiting Methods of Witwatersrand Association, *Feb. 26*, 1426, 1427.
  - White Labour—Unemployment on the Rand, Cause of and Proposals for Repatriating Australians, etc., *Feb. 14*, 302.

Churchill, Mr. W. L. S.—*cont.*
- Uganda
  - Beer, Spirit and Wine, Carriage charged on, *Feb. 14*, 289.
  - Railway
    - Housing Accommodation for Officials, *Feb. 15*, 414.
    - Lake Victoria Steamers provided to run in connection with, *Feb. 14*, 290.
- West Indian Mail Service, Subsidy granted for, *Feb. 26*, 1495, 1496.

City of London (Union of Parishes) Bill
- *l.* 1 * *Feb. 18*, 493.

Civil Service
- Appropriation Accounts (1905-1906) Presented together with Report thereon, *Feb. 13*, 155.
- Boy Clerks, Reply to Memorial from.
  - *Q.* Sir G. Kekewich; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 20*, 823.
- Superannuation, *see that title.*

Civil Service Estimates
- Ireland—Supplementary
  - Chief Secretary, Vote for Salaries and Expenses of Offices of—£255, *Com.*, *Feb. 21*, 1105.
- Presented, together with Memorandum of Secretary, *Feb. 26*, 1400.
- Scotland—Supplementary
  - Crofters' Commission—£140, *Com.*, *Feb. 21*, 1127.
  - School Boards' Expenditure—£11,000, *Com.*, *Feb. 21*, 1131.
- Supplementary
  - Colonial Services—£32,470, *Com.*, *Feb. 26*, 1463.
  - Estimate Presented, *Feb. 14*, 288.
  - House of Commons Offices—£1,550, *Com.*, *Feb. 21*, 1091.
  - Houses of Parliament Buildings—£11,900, *Com.*, *Feb. 21*, 1067.
  - Ireland, *see under that subheading.*
  - Royal Parks and Pleasure Gardens—£2,300, *Com.*, *Feb. 21*, 1057.
  - Scotland, *see under that subheading.*
  - Supreme Court of Judicature, *Feb. 21*, 1110.
  - Temporary Commissions, Committees, and Special Inquiries—£10,000, *Com.*, *Feb. 26*, 1509.

Clanricarde Estates
- Situation on, Treatment of Evicted Tenants, etc.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Hayden, *Feb. 14*, 333, 334; Mr. Dillon, 348–350; Mr. T. W. Russell, 360; Mr. Birrell, 368, 369.

Clare
Land Sales effected in.
Q. Mr. W. Redmond; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 561.

Cleland, Mr. J. W. [Glasgow, Bridgeton]
Court of Session for West of Scotland, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1264.

Clough, Mr. W. [Yorkshire, W. R., Skipton]
Education Rate, Passive Resistance to Payment of—Legislative Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Feb. 21*, 1042.

Clubs
Alcoholic Liquor Sales by—*See* Liquor Traffic.

Clynes, Mr J. R. [Manchester, N.E.]
Factories, Child Labour in—Number rejected in Medical Examination, *Feb. 19*, 712.
War Office Contracts, Observance of Fair Wages Clause in—Rate paid by Messrs. Arundle, *Feb. 19*, 701; *Feb. 20*, 818.

Coal
Exports
Effect of Removal of Duty.
Qs. Mr. Fell, Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25*, 1249.
Prices and Quantities (1906)—Return ordered, *Feb. 21*, 1004.
Statistics for 1906—Return ordered, *Feb. 21*, 1003.

Coal Mines (Eight Hours) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 417.

Coal Mines Regulation Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 420.

Cochrane, Mr. T. H. [Ayrshire, N.]
Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory, in Scotland—Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1545–1547.

Coinage and Currency
Gold Reserve, Proposals for dealing with.
Q. Mr. C. Money; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 21*, 1053.

Collings, Rt. Hon. J. [Birmingham, Bordesley]
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 778–784.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 445–448; *Feb. 19*, 778–784.
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R. *Feb. 22*, 1180–1181.
Vaccination—Repeal of Penal Clauses of Acts, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 445–448.

Collins, Mr. S. [Lambeth, Kennington]
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1181.

Collins, Sir W. J. [St. Pancras, W.]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 429–436.
Vaccination
Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 429–436.
Report and Recommendations of Committee of Inquiry, *Feb. 15*, 429–431.

Colne Valley Water Bill.
l 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Colonial Audit Branch
See under Exchequer and Audit Department.

Colonial Conference, 1887
Matters discussed at.
Os. Mr. Hills, *Feb. 19*, 724.

Colonial Conference, 1897
Preferential Tariffs, Resolutions in Favour of.
Os. Mr. Hills, *Feb. 19*, 725.

Colonial Conference, 1907
Agenda—Despatch etc., Presented, *Feb. 21*, 977.
Calling of—Proposals for Tabling Protests of Australian States Premiers and other Correspondence.
Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20*, 830.
Colonial Representation at.
Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 19*, 721.
High Commissionership of the Western Pacific, Discussion of Question of.
Q. Sir G. Parker; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19*, 707, 708.
Indian Representation at.
Os. Sir C. Dilke, *Feb. 19*, 742, 743.
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 19*, 721.
Omission of Mention in the King's Speech.
Os. Marquess of Lansdowne, *Feb. 12*, 21; Marquess of Ripon, 33; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 64; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 79; Mr. W. Long, *Feb. 13*, 185, 186; Mr. Hills, *Feb. 19*, 723; Mr. E. Cecil, 732; Mr. Churchill, 804, 805.
Preferential Tariffs, Bringing Question under Discussion, *see under* Fiscal Policy.
Proposals as to.
Qs. Sir H. Vincent, Mr. A. Taylor; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18*, 544.
Resolutions, Procedure in considering.
Q. Mr. Bottomley; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1424.

Colonial Conferences
Permanent Staff to prepare Work for, Suggestions as to.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 20*, 870.

Colonial Office
Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.
Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. W. L. S. Churchill.
Speeches of Under-Secretary, Precedents for cabling to South Africa.
Os. Lord Harris, *Feb. 19*, 674, 675.

Colonies and Protectorates
[*For particular Colonies, etc., see their names.*]
Annual Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.
Contributions towards Cost of Defence of the Empire, *see under* Defence of the Empire.
Coolie Labour — Supplementary Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 57.
Local Option—Return Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1225.
Miscellaneous Reports Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.
Party Capital made out of, by the Mother Country, Objections to.
Os. Mr. Molteno, *Feb. 19*, 765–768, 771; Mr. Churchill, 810, 811.
Preferential Tariffs granted by, to British Goods.
Os. Mr. H. Cox, *Feb. 15*, 458, 460; Mr. R. Rea, 480–482.

Committees
Appeal Committee appointed, *Feb. 12*, 39.
House of Lords Chairman—Appointment of Earl of Onslow, *Feb. 12*, 39.
Journals of House of Lords—Appointment, *Feb. 12*, 39.
Police and Sanitary Committee, Nomination of, *Feb. 25*, 1222.
Privileges—Appointment Ordered, *Feb. 12*, 39, 50.
Public Petitions—Appointment of Members, *Feb. 21*, 1139.
Selection, Committees of, Nominated, *Feb. 26*, 1396, 1397.
Standing Committees, Nomination of, *Feb. 21*, 1055, 1056.

Companies Act (Debentures and Debenture Stock) Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1394.

Comptroller and Auditor General
System of Appointing and Conditions of holding Office.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Feb. 19*, 696.

Compulsory Weighing and Measurements Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 418.

Congo Free State
Annexation by Belgium, Consent of Great Britain to.
Q. Mr. Bennett; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 19*, 709.
Reform Proposals—Attitude of British Government.
Q. Sir G. Kekewich; *A.* Sir E Grey, *Feb. 25*, 1226, 1227.
Reports from Vice-Consuls Captain Mitchell, and Mr. Armstrong, Proposals as to Tabling.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 26*, 1430.

Consolidated Fund
Abstract Account Presented, *Feb. 18*, 520.

Constabulary, Royal Irish
See also names of places.
Annual Cost of
Os. Mr. Dillon, *Feb. 14*, 342, 343.
Pensions—Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 53.

Consular Service
See Diplomatic and Consular Service.

Conventual Institutions
Laundries, *see that title.*

Corbett, Mr. T. L. [Down, N.]
Irish Chief Secretary's Office—Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary during Autumn Session, *Feb. 21*, 1107, 1108, 1112.
Crofters Commission Chairman, Name, Salary, etc. of, *Feb. 21*, 1129.
Expenditure of Scottish School Boards—Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1136.
Inebriate Homes, Irish, Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1114.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 246.
Laundries in Religious Institutions, Inspection of, *Feb. 18*, 550.
Old-Age Pensions, Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 246.
House of Commons Shorthand Writers—Printing of Reports, etc., Delay involved in sending to Reading, *Feb. 21*, 1101, 1102.
Parliamentary Election Petitions, Legal Expenses in connection with, Information as to, *Feb. 21*, 1125.

Corea
Consular and Marriage Fees—Order in Council Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 56.
Order in Council Presented 1907, *Feb. 21*, 978, 1002.

Cork
Constabulary—Reason for Employment of extra Police in County.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 850.

Cornwall, Duchy of
Lord Warden—Earl of Ducie.
Receipts and Disbursements (1906), Presented, *Feb. 19*, 673, 690.

Coroners Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 21*, 1057.

Coroners' Inquests (Railway, etc., Fatalities) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 421.

Corporal Punishment (Restriction) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 566.

Corrib, Lough
Ferry Service, Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1017.

Cotton, Sir H. J. S. [Nottingham, E.]
Colonial Conference, 1907, Indian Representation at, *Feb. 19*, 721.
India
- Affairs, Opportunity for discussing, *Feb. 20*, 855.
- Flogging as Judicial Punishment, Report on—Proposals for Tabling, *Feb. 19*, 703.
- Judicial and Executive Functions, Decision as to Separation of, *Feb. 18*, 538, 539.
- Lahore—Sentences on Proprietor and Editor of *Punjabi*, *Feb. 21*, 1022.
- Legislative Councils Committee—Date of presenting Report, *Feb. 18*, 538.
- Poppy Cultivation—Proposals for reducing Area, *Feb. 20*, 827; *Feb. 26*, 1422.
- Vagrancy, Imprisonment for, in 1905, *Feb. 21*, 1022.

King's Speech, Address in Reply—Eleven o'clock Rule, Suspension of, *Feb. 18*, 566.
Opium
- Indian
  - Bengal Opium, Price of, *Feb. 26*, 1422, 1423.
  - Price per Seer paid to Cultivators, *Feb. 20*, 827.
  - Revenue (1906–7), *Feb. 20*, 826.
- Indo-Chinese Trade, Proposals for regulating, *Feb. 19*, 702.
- Malwa Opium, Price of and Duty on, *Feb. 20*, 826; *Feb. 26*, 1422.

County Councils
Standing Joint Committees' Expenditure Control of—Legislative Proposals.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 19*, 712, 713.

County of Middlesex Light Railways (Extension and Lands)
Order Presented, *Feb. 18*, 495, 520.

Courthope, Mr. G. L. [Sussex, Rye]
Agriculture
- Board—Inadequacy of Sources of Information, alleged, *Feb. 14*, 399.
- Scientific Research, Backward State of in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up to date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 398.

Bexhill War Office Land, Conditions of selling, *Feb. 26*, 1419.
Crofters' Commission Estimate, Reason for Increase in, *Feb. 21*, 1127.
Hop Pockets, Marking of—Application of Act to Imported Hops, *Feb. 26*, 1441.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 398, 399; *Feb. 18*, 618–621.
Parks and Gardens—Reasons for Increase in Wages of Employees, *Feb. 21*, 1059, 1063.
Parliament
- House of Commons
  - Dining-room, new, Criticisms on, *Feb. 21*, 1086.
  - Lavatories, Cold Water Supply in, *Feb. 21*, 1086.
- Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for readjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 618.
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18*, 621.

Robertsbridge Telephone Service, Proposals as to, *Feb. 19*, 693.
Turner, Rex *v.*, Case of—Expenses of Witnesses, Cause for Delay in Payment of, *Feb. 26*, 1439.
Volunteer Commanding Officers, Liability of, for Debts contracted on behalf of Corps—Proposals for dealing with matter, *Feb. 14*, 299.

Coventry Corporation Water Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
2R.* *Feb. 18*, 1218.

Cox, Mr. H. [Preston]
Australia—Refusal of Admission to British Hatters, *Feb. 15*. 458.
Colonies, Preferential Tariffs granted by, to British Goods, *Feb. 15*, 458, 460.
Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contribution towards—Question of augmenting, *Feb. 15*, 453–463.

[*cont.*

Cox, Mr. H.—*cont.*
- Drink, Annual Amount spent on, *Feb. 13*, 230.
- Emigration, Encouragement of, by Local Authorities — Legislation to extend Powers, proposed, *Feb, 18*, 553.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 227–233 ; *Feb. 15*, 453–463.
- Meals for Children—Proposals for introducing Scottish Legislation, *Feb. 26*, 1442.
- Old Age Pensions
  - Causes of Destitution, *Feb. 13*, 230, 231.
  - Difficulty of propounding a Workable System, *Feb. 13*, 227–233.
  - Number of Persons over sixty-five, Cost of granting 5s. per week to, etc., *Feb. 13*, 227.
- Parliament, Opening of, Inconvenience of Present Arrangements for—Use of Westminster Hall, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 563.

Craig, Capt. J. [Down, E.]
- Crofters' Commission Estimate, Reason for Increase in, *Feb. 21*, 1127.
- Education
  - Grant—Comparison with Scotland, *Feb. 14*, 311.
  - National School Teachers with University Degrees, special Payment for, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 310.
  - Expenditure of Scottish School Boards Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1135.
- Home Rule—Government Attitude, and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 637, 638.
- Irish Language, Expenditure on Teaching in Schools, *Feb. 14*, 311, 312.
- Kilkeel
  - Hall erected on Labourers' Allotment, Allegations as to, *Feb. 20*, 849.
  - Land acquired by Rural District Council, Procedure in re-conveying to Occupier, *Feb. 22*, 1149.
- King' Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 636–638.
- New Hebrides—Conditions of employing Child Labour, *Feb. 26*, 1423.
- St. Helena Flax Industry, Grant-in-aid for, *Feb. 26*, 1463, 1464.
- Transvaal Chinese Labour—Repatriation
  - Conditions of, Progress made, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1464, 1465.
  - Cost of, Estimate for, *Feb. 26*, 1463, 1464.

Craig, Mr. C. C. [Antrim, S.]
- Administrative Policy, Irish—Criticisms on past and present Administrations, *Feb. 13*, 205–208.
- Home Rule
  - Government Proposals as to, Necessity for defining, *Feb. 13*, 204, 208, 209.
  - Irish Unionist Party, Attitude of, *Feb. 13*, 205.
- Industries of Ireland, Condition of, *Feb. 13*, 206.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 203–210.

Craik, Sir H. [Glasgow and Aberdeen Universities]
- Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory, in Scotland—Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1534–1537.

Criminal Appeal Court
- Establishment of, Proposals as to.
  - *Os.* Earl of Chichester, *Feb. 12*, 14.
  - References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

Criminal Procedure
- Conditional Licences Granted—*see under title* Penal Servitude Acts.

Criminal Statistics
- *See under* Judicial Statistics.

Crofters Holdings (Scotland) Acts Amendment Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 19*, 722.

Crofton Estate
- Sale Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Dolan ; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 22*, 1149.

Crombie, Mr. J. W. [Kincardineshire]
- Aberdeen Underground Telegraph Cable, Expediting Laying of, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 309.
- Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory, in Scotland, Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1532, 1533.
- Education—Legislative Proposals as to, for Scotland, *Feb. 18*, 560.
- Grand Committee to deal with Scotch Measures, proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 121, 122.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 121, 122.
- Land Tenure, Scotland—Legislative proposals, *Feb. 12*, 121.

Crooks, Mr. W. [Woolwich]
- Army Arsenals, Allocation of work in, to avoid Fluctuation of Employment—Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1388.

Crooks, Mr. W.—*cont.*

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20*, 948–952.

Unemployed

Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 20*, 951.

Time allowed to elapse between Applications and giving of Employment by Boards, *Feb. 20*, 949.

Unemployed Workmen Bill, 1905, Amendment of, *Feb. 20*, 949.

Woolwich Explosion—Government Proposals for making good Damage done to Private Property, *Feb. 14*, 299.

Crown Lands

Management and Direction, New Arrangements for.
Q. Mr. H. H. Marks; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 20*, 832.

Cullinan, Mr. J. [Tipperary, S.]

Fairholme Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 26*, 1448.

Inebriate Homes, Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1111.

Land Commission, Cases pending, *Feb. 26*, 1401.

Cushendall

Water Supply Scheme, Decision as to.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1018.

Customs and Excise

Customs' Launches—Hours of Labour of Crews.
Q. Mr. Steadman; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 21*, 1013.

Revenue (1905–6) Statistics as to.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 26*, 1407, 1408.

Dalziel, Mr. J. H. [Kirkcaldy Burghs]

House of Commons—Shorthand Writers, Printing of Reports, etc., Delay involved in Sending to Reading, *Feb. 21*, 1101, 1102.

Land Values (Scotland) Bill—Committee on, Expenditure of, *Feb. 21*, 1100.

Davies, Mr. E. W. [Carnarvon, Eifion]

Carnarvonshire Slate Quarries, Accidents in, Cause of—Inquiry proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1434, 1435.

Davies, Mr. T. [Fulham]

Bradford—Cause for Increase in Drunkenness, *Feb. 20*, 834.

Railways, Underground, Risks of Fire in—Damage done on Baker Street and Waterloo Line, etc., *Feb. 25*, 1248.

Defence of the Empire

Colonial Contribution towards, Question of Augmenting—Bringing Question before Colonial Conference, proposed.
Os. Mr. H. Cox, *Feb. 15*, 453–463; Mr. Hart-Davies, 463; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 464–469; Mr. Churchill, 469–476; Mr. R. Rea, 476–483; Mr. W. Redmond, 483–487; Mr. Boulton, 487–490; Mr. C. Wason, 490; Sir G. Parker, 490–492.

Invasion

Navy as a Guarantee Against.
Os. Lord Lovat, *Feb. 18*, 501, 502, 504, 518; Earl Roberts, 505, 506; Earl of Portsmouth, 509; Marquess of Lansdowne, 512, 513.

Number of Men and Ships Necessary to Effect a Successful Action.
Os. Lord Lovat, *Feb. 18*, 502, 503, 504, 517; Earl Roberts, 507; Earl of Portsmouth, 510; Marquess of Lansdowne, 513.

Possibility of, Measures taken to deal with.
Os. Earl Roberts, *Feb. 18*, 507-509; Earl of Portsmouth, 510–512; Marquess of Lansdowne, 513–515; Lord Tweedmouth, 515–517.

Ports, System of Defending, Decision as to.
Os. Sir C. Dilke, *Feb. 25*, 1342–1344.

Raid, Proposals for dealing with.
Os. Sir C. Dilke, *Feb. 25*, 1342.

Delany, Mr. W. [Queen's County, Ossory]

Caldbeck Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 25*, 1239.

Education—Inspector's Visits, Rule as to Notifying, *Feb. 22*, 1150.

Tea, Precautions against tampering with, during Transit from Ship to Bond, *Feb. 21*, 1013.

Denmark

Finances (1903–4 and 1904–5), Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40.

Derby

North East Division—New Writ Issued, *Feb. 12*, 47; *Feb. 14*, 316.

Union Workhouse—Vaccination Fee for Medical Officer.
Q. Mr. Raphael; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 841.

Dernacrieve

Post Office, Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 25*, 1271.

Devonport
  Visit of Prince of Wales—Inquiry into Cause of Friction between Civil and Naval Authorities, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 25*, 1241.

Devonport Corporation Bill
  l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
    2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Devonshire
  Charities—Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 57.

Dewar, Mr. J. A. [Inverness]
  Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill, Proposals for Reintroducing, *Feb. 20*, 845.

Digby Estate
  Sale Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. Sullivan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 532.

Dilke, Rt. Hon. Sir C. W. [Gloucester, Forest of Dean]
  Army
    Auxiliary Forces—Reorganisation Proposals, *Feb. 21*, 1020.
    Pay—Explanation of Order on Emoluments of Soldiers, *Feb. 21*, 1021, 1022.
    Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1341.
  Army (Annual) Bill Amendment, Decision as to, *Feb. 14*, 300.
  Business of the House, Course of, *Feb. 20*, 855.
  Colonial Conference, 1907.
    Colonial Representation at, *Feb. 19*, 721.
    India, Representation of, *Feb. 19*, 742, 743.
  Defence of the Empire
    Ports, System of Defence, Decision as to, *Feb. 25*, 1342–1344.
    Raids, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 25*, 1342.
  Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 737–746.
  India
    Army—Artillery, Increased Efficiency of, Cost etc., *Feb. 25*, 1339, 1340.
    Trade of, with Germany, Character and Importance of, *Feb. 19*, 744.
  Kings' Speech—Address in reply, *Feb. 13*, 170–172; *Feb. 19*, 737–746.
  New Hebrides
    Convention with France, Provision of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 13*, 170.
    Indentured Labour in—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 13*, 171, 172.
  Phosphorus Poisoning, Details of Death from, in the Match Trade, *Feb. 26*, 1414.

Dillon, Mr. J. [Mayo, E.]
  Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis—Measures taken to deal with Outbreak, *Feb. 20*, 841.
  Clanricarde Estate, Situation on, Treatment of Evicted Tenants, etc., *Feb. 14*, 348–350.
  Constabulary, Royal Irish—Annual Cost of, *Feb. 14*, 342–343.
  Divisions, Method of taking, Improvements effected in, *Feb. 21*, 1067, 1068.
  Education—School Buildings Plans and Grants, Decision as to, *Feb. 18*, 562, 563.
  Egypt—Ahmed Bey Fathy Zaglool, Proposals for Promotion of, *Feb. 21*, 1033.
  Evictions—Reinstatements, under Land Act, 1903, Progress made with and Proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 341–352.
  House of Commons Ventilation Necessity for Improvement in, *Feb. 21*, 1068.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 341–352.
  Land Commission Inspectors, Number of, Class of Persons employed, etc., *Feb. 14*, 346, 347.
  Larne School Erection, Cause of Delay in dealing with, *Feb. 26*, 1413.
  Law Courts—Appointments of Sergeant Dodd to Judgeship, *Feb. 25*, 1358.
  Parks and Gardens—Reasons for Increase in Wages of Employees, *Feb. 21*, 1058, 1059.
  Potato Crop, Failure of—Proposals for Seed Loans, etc., *Feb. 20*, 848, 849.
  School Boards in Scotland—Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1131.

Diplomatic and Consular Service
  Consular Fees (General) Order in Council Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 56.

Dixon-Hartland, Sir F. D. [Middlesex, Uxbridge]
  Piccadilly, Reason for Delay in Re-paving, *Feb. 20*, 821.

Dockyards, Naval
  See under Navy.

Dog Licences
  Notices of Objection, Regulations as to Payment of Postage of.
    Q. Sir J. Leese; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18*, 529, 530.

Dogs (Protection) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1453.

Dolan, Mr. [Leitrim, N.]
  Beresford Whyte Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 22*, 1148.
  Crofton Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 22*, 1149.
  Tottenham Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 22*, 1149.

Donelan, Captain A. J. C. [Cork, E.]
  Labourers Acts, Acquisition of Land under Distribution of Form 6, *Feb. 20,* 846.
  Middleton—Land Commission's Sitting, Date of, *Feb. 14,* 296.
  Post Office—American Mail Service
    Effect of proposed Changes in, *Feb. 14,* 314, 315.
    Sorting Arrangements at Sea and in Train, *Feb. 26,* 1449.

Drink
  Annual Amount spent on.
    Os. Mr. H. Cox, *Feb. 13,* 230.

Dublin
  Post Office Mail Cart Drivers, Conditions of Labour of.
    Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 22,* 1143.
  Public Buildings, Proposals for Repair of.
    Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 21,* 1017.
  Rowing Club House on the River Liffey, Reason for Delay in dealing with Application for.
    Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 14,* 296.

Dublin Metropolitan Police Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 420.

Duffy, Mr. W. J. [Galway, S.]
  Kinvara
    Harbour Works, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25,* 1268.
    Postal Facilities, Improvement of, *Feb. 25,* 1271.

Duke of York's School
  Site, Decision as to Disposal of.
    Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1243.

Duncan, Mr. C. [Barrow-in-Furness]
  Sparkbrook Gun Factory, Conditions of Purchase, *Feb. 21,* 1009.

Duncan, Mr. R. [Lanark, Govan]
  Food and Drink, Revenue derived from Taxes on, in 1906, *Feb. 21,* 1053, 1054.
  Worcester, New Writ for—Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14,* 324.

Dunfanaghy
  Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 22,* 1145.

Dunraven Estate
  Drew, T., Case of.
    Q. Mr. Lundon; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26,* 1446.

Dunshaughlin
  Labourers Act Inquiry, Decision in.
    Q. Mr. Sheehy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25,* 1266.

Ecclesiastical Commissioners
  Public Houses on Metropolitan Estates—Return Ordered, *Feb. 19,* 691; Presented, *Feb. 20,* 814.

Ecclesiastical Disorders Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 420.

Ecuador
  Trade Report, Presented, *Feb. 12,* 40.

Edinburgh
  Holyrood Chapel Royal—Decision as to Legacy of late Earl of Levan and Melville.
    Q. Mr. Watt; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 14,* 310.
  University — Financial and Statistical Reports, Presented, *Feb. 26,* 1400.

Education, Board of
  President—Rt. Hon. R. McKenna.
  Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. T. Lough.
  Consultative Committee—Draft Order in Council amending Order of August 7, 1900, Presented, *Feb. 21,* 1003; *Feb. 25,* 1219.
  Draft Order in Council, Presented, *Feb. 19,* 673, 689.

Education (England and Wales)
  [For Particular Places, *see their names.*]
  Associations of Schools, Accounts of.
    Q. Mr. Bertram; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 21,* 1006.
  Evening Schools—List Presented, *Feb. 12,* 42, 53.
  Grants, Period for Payment of—Inconvenience caused by change of System.
    Q. Mr. Goddard; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 21,* 1041, 1042.
  Maps, Navy League, Provision of, proposed.
    Qs. Captain Faber; *As.* Mr. Lough, *Feb. 19,* 715, 716.
  Rates
    Passive Resistance to Payment of—Legislative Proposals for dealing with Matter.
      Qs. Mr. G. White, Mr. Clough; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 21,* 1042, 1043.
    Report of Departmental Committee, Presented, *Feb. 12,* 41, 53.
  Teachers
    Register, Legislative Proposals as to.
      Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Kr. McKenna, *Feb. 25,* 1259.
    Superannuation Fund, Information as to.
      Q. Mr. Lane-Fox; *A.* Mr. Lough, *Feb. 19,* 716.

Education (England and Wales)—*cont.*
Welsh Department, Proposals as to.
Qs. Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 25*, 1258, 1259.
Secretary and Chief Inspector—Salaries and Conditions of appointing.
Q. Mr. Walrond; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 20*, 1042.

Education (Ireland)
[For Particular Places, *see their names.*]
Condition of.
Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 12*, 95, 96.
Grant—Comparison with Scotland.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14*, 311.
Inspectors
Powers of, to interfere in framing of Programmes of Instruction.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 15*, 415, 416.
Visits, Rule as to notifying.
Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 22*, 1150.
Intermediate Examinations—Time Table (1907) Presented, *Feb. 22*, 1142; *Feb. 25*, 1219.
National School Teachers
Characters—Abolition of Periodical Certification, proposed.
Q. Mr. Halpin; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1444.
Pension Fund—Tabling Report, proposed.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 21*, 1050, 1051.
Salaries, Procedure in paying.
Qs. Mr. Halpin, Mr. Sloan; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1444, 1445.
University Degrees, Special Payment for holding, proposed.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14*, 310, 311.
Night Schools, Number of.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 533.
School Building Plans and Grants, Decision as to.
Qs. Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 18*, 562, 563.
Schools
Statistics as to Number, etc.
Q. Mr. Brigg; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1050.
Upkeep, Grant for Purposes of, proposed.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 561, 562.

Education (Scotland)
Vice-President of the Council—Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.
[For Particular Places, *see their names.*]

Education (Scotland)—*cont.*
Expenditure of School Boards—Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1131;
Os. Mr. Dillon, *Feb. 21*, 1131; Mr. Sinclair, 1131–1134; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 1132; Sir F. Banbury, 1133; Mr. Weir, 1134, 1135; Captain Craig, 1135; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1136.
Legislative Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Crombie; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 18*, 560.
Meals for Children—Decision as to Introducing Legislation.
Q. Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 21*, 1045.
Qs. Mr. Weir, Mr. H. Cox; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 26*, 1442.
School Board Franchise, Proposals for extending.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 25*, 1263.
Teachers' Pensions, improving Scale of
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 26*, 1442.

Education Acts Amendment Bill
c. 1r.* *Feb. 15*, 419.

Education (Provision of Meals) Act
Extension of, to Scotland—Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 12*, 106.

Education (Provision of Meals) (Scotland) Bill
c. 1r.* *Feb. 15*, 418.

Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill
c. 1r.* *Feb. 26*, 1461.

Egypt
Ahmed Bey Fathy Zaglool, Proposals for Promotion of, by Egyptian Government.
Q. Mr. Dillon; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21*, 1033.
British Garrison, Method of slaughtering Cattle for Use of.
Q. Viscount Castlereagh; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 19*, 700.
Q. Viscount Castlereagh; *A.* Mr Haldane, *Feb. 20*, 817.
Brown, Mr. Knox, Concessions granted to.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 26*, 1403, 1404.
Cairo Electric and Gas Lighting and Tramways System — Proposals for Prevention of Monopolies, etc.
Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 26*, 1429.

[*cont.*

Egypt—*cont.*
  Education
    British and Native Teachers employed—Salaries and Pensions, etc.
      Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21,* 1034, 1035.
    Language Question—Instruction in Arabic, etc.
      Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21,* 1036; *Feb. 26,* 1402.
  Military Conscription System, Abolition of, proposed.
    Qs. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *As.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21,* 1035, 1036.
  Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cost of, and Necessity for.
    Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 26,* 1402, 1403.
  Pellagra, Preventive Measures against, proposed.
    Q. Mr. J. M. Robertson; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21,* 1035.

Elections
  Expenditure by Persons other than Candidate or Agent, Legality of.
    Qs. Mr. C. Money; *As.* Sir J. Walton, *Feb. 25,* 1260–1262.

Electric Supply Corporation Bill
  l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

Eleven O'clock Rule
  Suspension of—*Motions* [Mr. Asquith], *Feb. 18,* 568; *Feb. 25,* 1276.

Elgin and Kincardine, Earl of—*Secretary of State for the Colonies.*
  Africa, Portuguese, East—Native Labour Recruiting for the Transvaal Mines, *Feb. 19,* 682.
  Australian States Constitution Bill, 2R., *Feb. 26,* 1394–1396.
  Transvaal Native Labour Recruiting Methods of Witwatersrand Association
    Attack by Under-Secretary for the Colonies, alleged, *Feb. 19,* 681.
    Speech of Under-Secretary for the Colonies on December 18th, Reasons for Cabling to South Africa, *Feb. 19,* 680, 681, 683.

Elliot Junction
  Railway Accident
    Date of Trial of Driver.
      Q. Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Feb. 18,* 556.
    Report of Inquiry, Proposals for publishing.
      Q. Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Mr. Kearley, *Feb. 21,* 1043.
    Result of Inquiry.
      Q. Mr. Bell; *A.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Feb. 25,* 1264, 1265.

Ellis, Mr. J. E. [Nottinghamshire, Rushcliffe
  New Members, Procedure in introducing, *Feb. 14,* 315.
  Parliamentary Debates—Bound Volumes and Index to Session, Date of Issue of, *Feb. 18,* 527.
  Parliamentary Procedure—Allocation of Time so as to obviate Application of Closure, proposed, *Feb. 26,* 1450.

Ely Estate
  Sale Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25,* 1237.

Emigration
  Encouragement of, by Local Authorities—Legislation to extend Powers, proposed.
    Qs. Mr. H. Cox, Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 18,* 553, 554.

Employers Liability (Insurance Companies) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 25,* 1276.

Engines and Boilers (Persons in Charge) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 422.

Ennel, Lough
  Control of—Measures for Prevention of Floods, etc.
    Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 20,* 847.

Enniskillen
  Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed,
    Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 19,* 692, 693.

Erne, Lough
  Fisheries, Crown Contribution towards Preservation of.
    Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25,* 1237.

Esmonde, Sir T. G. [Wexford, N.]
  Arklow Harbour, Decision as to, *Feb. 18,* 532.

Essex
  Harlow Churchgate Street Polling District—Order altering Name Presented, *Feb. 12,* 44, 55.

Estate Duties
  Settlement Estate Duty in Case of Persons dying between 31st July, 1894 and 1898, Repayment of.
    Q. Mr. Radford; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 18,* 546.

Estimates
  References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12,* 3.
  Supplementary, Objections to System of.
    Qs. Sir F. Banbury, *Feb. 26,* 1487; Mr. Churchill, 1494; Mr. Bowles, 1496, 1497.

Evans-Gordon, Major Sir W. [Tower Hamlets, Stepney]
  Madeira—Scheme for establishing Gambling Rooms, etc., *Feb. 21,* 1033.
  Mines in Scotland, Aliens employed in, *Feb. 25,* 1247.
  Natal
    Tongaat Village—Trading Licences of Indian Storekeepers, *Feb. 21,* 1028.
    Vrededorp Stands Ordinance, Operation of, *Feb. 21,* 1028.
  New Hebrides—Provisions of Convention as to Employment of Female Labour, *Feb. 21,* 1023, 1024.
  Woolwich Explosion—Government Proposals for making good Damage done to Private Property, *Feb. 18,* 535.

Everett, Mr. R. L. [Suffolk, Woodbridge]
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13,* 254, 255.
  Old Age Pensions—Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13,* 254, 255.

Evictions
  See under Ireland.

Exchequer and Audit Department
  Abstractor Clerks, Promotion of.
    Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 26,* 1413.
  Colonial Audit Branch, Origin of—System of appointing Clerks, etc.
    Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 19,* 694.
  Staff, Information as to.
    Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 26,* 1406.

Explosives Act
  Stores Licensed for Gunpowder, etc.—Order in Council Presented, *Feb. 21,* 978, 1002.

Exports and Imports
  Meat, Butter and Flax Imports into United Kingdom, 1891–1905.
    Q. Mr. J. O'Connor ; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 25,* 1227, 1228.
  Relative Prices of, and relative Quantities—Comparison of, in 1905 and 1906.
    Qs. Mr. Bridgeman, *Feb. 20,* 939, 940.

Faber, Captain W. V. [Hants, Andover]
  Army
    Salisbury Plain—Proposals for allowing Civilians to erect Permanent Buildings on, *Feb. 14,* 297.
    Second Line—Conditions of Service, *Feb. 26,* 1420.
    Tidworth Barracks Sewage Disposal—Places of Manufacture of Engines and Pumps, *Feb. 21,* 1007.

Faber, Captain W. V. —*cont.*
  Army—*cont.*
    Tidworth Camp, Private Persons, Buildings erected by—Authorities consulted on matter, *Feb. 26,* 1419.
  Education—Maps, Navy League, Provision of, proposed, *Feb. 19,* 715, 716.

Factories and Workshops
  Child Labour, Medical Examination for—Number of Children rejected and cause for rejection.
    Q. Mr. Clynes ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 19,* 712.
  Industrial Poisoning and Fatal Accidents—Preliminary Tables Presented, *Feb. 12,* 42, 52.
  Inspectors
    Additional, Number and Duties of.
      Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18,* 551.
    Assistant, Duties of.
      Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18,* 551.
    Inquests, Arrangement as to assistants attending.
      Qs. Mr. J. R. Macdonald ; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 20,* 835.
  Number not visited in 1905 and 1906.
    Q. Mr. A. Henderson ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 21,* 1039.
  Number of Persons employed in 1904—Supplement to Annual Report, Presented, *Feb. 12,* 42, 52.
  Paint and Colour Manufacture—Regulations Presented, *Feb. 13,* 155 ; *Feb. 14,* 275.
  Particulars Section of Act, Extension of, proposed.
    Q. Mr. A. Henderson ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 21,* 1039.

Fairholme Estate
  Sale Proposals for.
    Q. Mr. Cullinan ; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26,* 1448.

Falchorrib
  Marine Works, Proposals as to.
    Q. Mr. H. Law ; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 22,* 1150.

Falmouth Gas Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 280.
    2R.* *Feb. 26,* 1398.

Farrell, Mr. J. P. [Longford, N.]
  Drainage, Arterial—Date of Presenting Commission Report, *Feb. 21,* 1018.
  Labourers (Ireland) Acts—Urban Districts Extension to, proposed, *Feb. 21,* 1046.
  O'Brien Estate—Sale Negotiations, Progress made with, *Feb. 21,* 1050.
  Thompson (Clonfin) Estate—Untenanted Land, Disposal of, *Feb. 21,* 1050.

Farsley

Woodhouse and Co., Messrs., Discharge of Employee by, for Standing as Candidate for District Council—Powers of Employers as to Disposal of Private Time of Employees, etc.
Q. Mr. Jowett; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Feb. 26*, 1440.

Fell, Mr. A. [Great Yarmouth]

Beet, Sugar—Suggestion for Encouraging Cultivation, *Feb. 25*, 1274.

Coal Export Duty, Effect of Removal of, *Feb. 25*, 1249.

Fenwick, Mr. C. [Nothumberland, Wansbeck]

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 631, 636.

Old Age Pensions—Unionist Party Attitude towards, *Feb. 18*, 633, 634.

Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 634–636.

Unionist Party, Social Reforms effected by, *Feb. 18*, 632–634.

Ferguson, Mr. R. C. M. [Leith Burghs]

Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up to Date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 396–398.

Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory, in Scotland—Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1544.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 396–398; *Feb. 15*, 451.

Leith—Shop Hours Act, Confirmation of Closing Orders, *Feb. 18*, 523.

Shop Hours Act—Time required for dealing with Closing Orders, *Feb. 25*, 1226.

Vaccination

Administration of Acts in Scotland—Extension of Exemption Clauses to Scotland, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 451.

Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 451.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act

Regulations made by Agriculture Department, Ireland, Presented, *Feb. 21*, 979, 1002.

Statutory Rules and Orders, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 42, 55.

Fetherstonhaugh, Mr. G. [Fermanagh, N.]

Burnside Estate—Case of T. Sproulle, *Feb. 18*, 531.

Corrib, Lough—Proposals for Ferry Service, *Feb. 21*, 1017.

Ely Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 25*, 1237.

Enniskillen Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 692, 693.

Fetherstonhaugh, Mr. G.—*cont.*

Erne, Lough, Fisheries—Crown Contribution towards Preservation, *Feb. 25*, 1237.

Finner Rifle Range, Reason for discontinuing Use of, *Feb. 21*, 1018.

Weir Estate Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of—Case of J. Walmsley, *Feb. 20*, 820.

Field, Mr. W. [Dublin, St. Patrick]

Cattle, Irish, Allegations as to Tuberculation of—Inquiry proposed, *Feb. 14*, 292.

Colonial Audit Branch, Origin of System of appointing Clerks, etc., *Feb. 19*, 694.

Comptroller and Auditor General, System of appointing, *Feb. 19*, 696.

Customs and Excise Revenue (1905–6) Statistics as to, *Feb. 26*, 1407.

Dublin

Post Office Mail Cart Drivers, Conditions of Labour of, *Feb. 22*, 1143.

Public Buildings, Proposals for Repair of, *Feb. 21*, 1017.

Rowing Club House on the River Liffey, Reason for Delay in dealing with Application for, *Feb. 14*, 296.

Exchequer and Audit Department

Abstractor Clerks, Promotion of, *Feb. 26*, 1413.

Staff, Information as to, *Feb. 26*, 1406.

Gambling in Options, etc.—Colonial and Foreign Legislation, Return, Date of Presenting, *Feb. 14*, 292.

Glasgow Municipal Telephone Service—Conditions of Transfer of Employees to Post Office Service, *Feb. 18*, 522.

Jurors' Lists in Ireland, Procedure in Furnishing, *Feb. 26*, 1415.

Lights Board, Irish, Proposals for Reforming, *Feb. 25*, 1238.

Ordnance Survey

Maps, Irish, Estimate for and Amount Spent on, *Feb. 25*, 1234.

Rate of Wages of Staff in Ireland, *Feb. 25*, 1233.

Post Office

Postal Orders Issued and Paid in 1905–6, *Feb. 26*, 1405.

Postmasterships, Appointments to, in Great Britain and Ireland, *Feb. 26*, 1406.

Savings Bank Deposits and Withdrawals in Ireland, *Feb. 26*, 1405.

Tuberculosis Commission—Report, Cost of, *Feb. 14*, 290.

Fiennes, Mr. E. E. [Oxfordshire, Banbury]

Transvaal—White Labour, Unemployment on the Rand, Cause of, and Proposals for Repatriating Australians, etc., *Feb. 14*, 302.

Fiji
Forced Labour, Conditions of Employing.
Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1404.

Finner
Rifle Range, Reason for Discontinuing Use of.
Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 21*, 1018, 1019.

First Commissioner of Works
Rt. Hon. L. Harcourt.

First Lord of the Admiralty
Lord Tweedmouth.

First Lord of the Treasury
Rt. Hon. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman.

Fiscal Policy—Free Trade v. Protection
Debates [Commons], *Feb. 19*, 723; *Feb. 20*, 863.
Australian
Preference, Limited Nature of, 747–750.
Wheat, Production of—Statistics, 886.
Canada
Goods Obliged to Pass through the United States in Bond, Effect on Exportation to Great Britain, 882.
Preference, Trade Results of, 747, 753, 754, 761, 776, 777, 781, 782, 788, 799, 800, 898, 899.
Colonies, Preferential Treatment for, 737–746, 757–758, 763–772, 775–778, 785, 790–794, 795, 802, 809–811, 866–876, 878–891, 894–906, 913–920.
Advantages of, to Great Britain, 728, 729, 902, 903.
Bringing question before the Colonial Conference, proposed, 724–732, 734–737, 745, 763, 872, 873, 875, 891, 893.
Canadian Opinion as to, 897, 898, 907.
Colonial Zollverein, Advantages and Possibility of Establishing, 732, 733, 752, 753, 760, 775, 787, 867, 869.
Consumer, Burden falling on, Alleged, 888, 889.
Cutlery Trade with the Colonies and Foreign Countries, 762.
Export Trade to the Colonies, etc. Volume of, 745, 781, 786, 798, 799, 803, 804, 901, 908–912.
Food, Policy of Imposing Taxes on, 773, 774, 808, 810, 877, 878, 892, 904, 915, 916.
Free Trade, Fallacies of, 779, 780.

Fiscal Policy—*cont.*
Debates—*cont.*
General or Penal Tariff, Advantages of, 729.
Gun Industry of Birmingham, Effect of Foreign Competition on, 783, 784.
Indian Fiscal System, Alteration in, proposed, 740, 741, 912.
Neutral Markets of the World, Position of Great Britain in, 908–912.
Policy of Late Prime Minister, Attack on, 793, 794, 805, 806, 892.
Raw Materials, Taxation of, 877, 878. 881.
Shipbuilding Trade, Condition of, 757.
Taxation, Broadening Basis of, Necessity for, 874, 894, 915, 916.
Taxes Imposed under Present System, Burden of, on the Poorer Classes, 727.
Wheat
Import Duty on Foreign Wheat and Admission of Colonial Wheat Duty Free, proposed, 771, 774, 796, 879.
Supply for the Colonies, Statistics as to, 730, 731, 739.
Government Attitude Towards.
Os. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 12*, 73, 74; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 87.
Preference, Opportunity for Discussing at Colonial Conference.
O. Sir E. Sassoon, *Feb. 12*, 117; Mr. Churchill, 132, 133.

Fisheries
Ireland—Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 53.
Protection of Fishing Grounds—Proposals for Additional Cruiser.
Qs. Mr. Weir, Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. Sinclair. *Feb. 25*, 1263.
Scotland—Breaches of Statutes, Legislative Proposals for Disposal of Penalties Recovered.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair. *Feb. 18*, 524, 559.

Fisheries (Ireland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 567.

Fitzgerald's Divorce Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.

Fitzmaurice, Lord — *Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs.*
Moray Firth, Trawling in, by Foreign Vessels—Proposals for Settling Matter under Dispute, etc., *Feb. 21*, 987, 997.

Flannery Estate
Case of J. Farrell.
Q. Mr. O'Kelly; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25*, 1239.

Flynn, Mr. J. C. [Cork, N.]
Cork Constabulary—Reason for Employment of, Extra Police in County, *Feb. 20*, 850.
Liscarroll—Decision as to Abandoning Glenfield Experimental Farm, *Feb. 20*, 850.

Folkestone, Sandgate, and Hythe Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 26*, 1393.

Food and Drink
Revenue Derived from Taxes on.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 18*, 549.
Qs. Mr. R. Duncan; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 21*, 1053, 1054.

Foreign Trawlers Regulation Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 567.

Foster, Sir B. W. [Derby, Ilkeston]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 439–443.
Vaccination
Exemption Certificates—Procedure as to Granting, *Feb. 15*, 441.
Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 439–443.
Syphilis as a Result of, *Feb. 14*, 440.

Fowler, Rt. Hon. Sir H. H.—*Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster* [Wolverhampton, E.]
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, *2*R., *Feb. 22*, 1186, 1195–1211.

France
Revolution of 1818, Losses of British Subjects During—Claim of Irish College for Indemnity.
Q. Mr. O'Dowd; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21*, 1034.

Franchise and Removal of Women's Disabilities Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 423.

Friendly Societies
Regulation (31st December, 1906, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 45, 56.
Report of Chief Registrar, Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1220, 1225.

Fullerton, Mr. [Cumberland, Egremont]
Agricultural Holdings Act, 1906, Postponement of Operation of—Advantage taken by Certain Landlords, *Feb. 18*, 564.

Galwey's Divorce Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.

Gambling in Options, &c.
Colonial and Foreign Legislative Measures, Reports Presented, *Feb. 12*, 155; *Feb. 18*, 495.
Return, Date of Presenting.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 14*, 292.

Gas Companies (Removal of Sulphur Restrictions) Bill
c. 1R., *Feb. 14*, 280.

Gateshead
Maughan Case, Decision in
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Gladstone *Feb. 20*, 836.

Gibb, Mr. J. [Middlesex, Harrow]
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 757–760.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 757–760.

Gibbs, Mr. G. A. [Bristol, W.]
Land Purchase—Priority Regulations as to Procedure, *Feb. 21*, 1049.

Ginnell, Mr. L. [Westmeath, N.]
Ennel, Lough, Control of—Measures for Prevention of Floods, etc., *Feb. 20*, 847.
Labourers Acts, Acquisition of Land under—Distribution of Form 6, *Feb. 20*, 845, 846.
Land Judges' Court—Estates over which Receivers have been appointed, Return proposed, *Feb. 19*, 695.
Land Purchase
Annuities, Writs issued for Recovery, *Feb. 20*, 847.
Bonus, Cases of Paying—Return proposed, *Feb. 20*, 848.

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*Secretary of State for the Home Department* [Leeds, W.]
Aliens—Refusals of leave to Land, Information in Return, *Feb. 21*, 1038.
Aliens Act, Administration, Cost of, *Feb. 14*, 308.
Bacup—Carter Prosecuted for Sleeping while on Duty, Proposals for Regulation of Hours of Labour, *Feb. 26*, 1435.
Bradford—Casue for Increase in Drunkenness, *Feb. 20*, 834.
Carnarvonshire Slate Quarries, Accidents in, Cause of—Inquiry proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1434, 1435.
Dog Licences, Notices of Objection—Regulations as to Payment of Postage, *Feb. 18*, 530.

[*cont.*

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*cont.*

Factories and Workshops

Child Labour, Medical Examination for—Number of Children rejected, etc., *Feb. 19*, 712.

Inspectors

Additional Number and Duties of, *Feb. 18*, 551

Assistant

Duties of, *Feb. 18*, 551.

Inquests, Arrangements as to Attendance at, *Feb. 20*, 835.

Number not visited in 1905 and 1906, *Feb. 21*, 1039.

Particulars Section of Act, Extension of, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1039.

Gateshead—Decision in Maughan Case, *Feb. 20*, 836.

Laundries in Religious Institutions, Inspection of, *Feb. 18*, 550.

Law Courts

Judicial Etiquette as to Defence of Judicial Conduct in a Newspaper, *Feb. 14*, 293.

Poor Litigants, Appointment of Solicitor to advise, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 837, 838.

Liquor Traffic

Children taken into Public-Houses, Proposals for dealing with Practice, *Feb. 26*, 1414.

Clubs selling Alcholic Liquor, Ownership and Registration of, *Feb. 18*, 550.

Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 26*, 1434.

Licences—Statistics as to Refusal, etc., *Feb. 18*, 523.

Loans on Security of Compensation Fund, Conditions of raising, *Feb. 20*, 839.

Magistrates—Fees on Appointment, *Feb. 25*, 1246.

Mines

Inspectors, System of Appointing, *Feb. 19*, 711; *Feb. 26*, 1433, 1434.

Scottish, Aliens employed in, *Feb. 25*, 1247.

Phosphorus Poisoning, Details of Death from, in Match Trade, *Feb. 26*, 1414.

Police

Day of Rest weekly, Increase of Staff necessitated by, *Feb. 14*, 308.

Poor Prisoners' Defence Act, Condition of Granting Legal Aid under, *Feb. 18*, 553; *Feb. 20*, 835.

Poplar—Case of G. Watts, Cause of Death, etc, *Feb. 18*, 530.

Gladstone, Rt. Hon. H. J.—*cont.*

Slate Clubs, Losses by—Proposals for Safeguarding Funds, *Feb. 25*, 1246.

Sunday Trading—Legislative Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 26*, 1434.

Vaccination Exemption—Sentence on Mr. J. L. Honeywood, *Feb. 20*, 838.

Women Suffragists, Riot outside Houses of Parliament.

Measures taken to quell, *Feb. 13*, 272; *Feb. 20*, 836.

Sentences inflicted, Reason for Differences in, *Feb. 18*, 552.

Workmen's Compensation Act—Medical Referees, Conditions of appointing *Feb. 19*, 711.

Glasgow

Duke Street Prison Assistant Surgeonship, Appointment to.

Qs. Mr. Watt; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 19*, 717, 718.

Post Office

Inspector of Postmen, junior Assistant, Employment of, on special Duties.

Q. Mr. P. O'Brien; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 18*, 529.

Telegraph Staff Vacancies, Proposals for filling.

Q. Mr. Barnes; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 21*, 1005.

Telephone Service, Municipal—Conditions of Transfer of Employees to Post Office Service.

Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 18*, 522.

University—Annual Statistical Report, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 46, 56.

Goa

Trade Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40.

Goddard, Mr. D. F. [Ipswich]

Education—Grants, Period for Payment of—Inconvenience caused by Change of System, *Feb. 21*, 1041.

Gold Reserve

See under Coinage and Currency.

Gooch, Mr. G. P. [Bath]

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 352–354.

Reinstatements, under Land Act, 1903, Progress made with and Proposals for expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 352–354.

Gooseberry Mildew

Precautions against Spread of.

Q. Mr. Beck; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 14*, 309.

Goschen, Viscount
Death of—Tributes to Services of, etc.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12,* 12; Earl of Chichester, 12; Marquess of Lansdowne, 18, 19; Marquess of Ripon, 31.

Government Departments
Wages of Employees, Decision as to Increase in.
Os. Mr. A. Chamberlain, *Feb. 21,* 1062, 1066; Mr. Harcourt, 1066.

Grant, Mr. C. [Warwickshire, Rugby]
Poor Law Children—Date of Issue of Boarding-out Order, *Feb. 22,* 1144.

Grays
Post Office—Cause for Dismissal of Telegraph boys.
Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 20,* 842.

Grays and Tilbury Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 280.

Great Central Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 281.

Great Northern and City Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 281.

Great Western, London and North-Western and Rhymney Railway Companies Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 281.

Great Yarmouth Port and Haven Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 281.

Great Yarmouth Waterworks and Lowestoft Water and Gas Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

Greek Loan, 1832
Account (1906) Presented, *Feb. 19,* 673, 690.

Greenwich Hospital
Age Pensions, Conditions of Granting—Amount available for Distribution, etc.
Qs. Mr. Bramsdon, Mr. A. Lee; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 19,* 697.

Greenwich Hospital and Travers Foundation
Accounts Presented, *Feb. 15,* 414; *Feb. 18,* 496.

Greenwich Observatory
London County Council Electric Power Station, Effect of
Decision as to Adoption of Report.
Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 25,* 1241.
Report of Committee Presented, *Feb. 15,* 413; *Feb. 18,* 495.

Grenada
Rules for Government of Colonial Prisons, Presented, *Feb. 12,* 57; *Feb. 14,* 275.

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.—*Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs* [Northumberland, Berwick]
Baghdad Railway
Internationalisation of—Position of Great Britain, *Feb. 19,* 709.
Progress made with, *Feb. 26,* 1429.
Congo Free State
Annexation by Belgium, Consent of Great Britain to, *Feb. 19,* 709.
Reform Proposals—Attitude of British Government, *Feb. 25,* 1227.
Reports from Vice-Consuls Captain Mitchell and Mr. Armstrong, Proposals as to Tabling, *Feb. 26,* 1430.
Egypt
Ahmed Bey Fathy Zaglool, Proposals for Promotion of, *Feb. 21,* 1033.
Brown, Mr. Knox, Concessions granted to, *Feb. 26,* 1404.
Cairo Electric and Gas Lighting, and Tramways System—Proposals for Prevention of Monopolies, *Feb. 26,* 1429.
Education
British and Native Teachers employed, *Feb. 21,* 1035.
Language Question—Instruction in Arabic, etc., *Feb. 21,* 1036; *Feb. 26,* 1402.
Military Conscription System, Abolition of, proposed, *Feb. 21,* 1036.
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cost of and Necessity for, *Feb. 26,* 1403.
Pellagra, Preventive Measures against, proposed, *Feb. 21,* 1035.
France—Revolution of 1818, Losses of British Subjects during—Claim of Irish College, *Feb. 21,* 1034.
Hague Conference, Subjects to be Discussed at and Date of Meeting, *Feb. 21,* 1052.
Italy—Genoa Port Regulations, Proposals for Revising, *Feb. 22,* 1143.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13,* 173–184.
Macedonian Reform Proposals—Memorial from Refugees in Bulgaria, *Feb. 26,* 1428, 1429.
Madeira — Scheme for Establishing Gambling Rooms, *Feb. 21,* 1034.
Moray Firth, Trawling in—Possibility of effecting Settlement, *Feb. 21,* 1037, 1038.
Morocco Railway Concessions, Information as to, *Feb. 21,* 1037.

[*cont.*

Grey, Rt. Hon. Sir E.—*cont.*
- New Hebrides
  - Convention with France, Provisions of.
    - Article 68, Information as to, *Feb. 13*, 173.
    - Australia and New Zealand, Opinion of, etc., *Feb. 13*, 173–176, 183.
    - Procedure for Ratifying, *Feb. 21*, 1038.
  - Indentured Labour in—Provision of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 13*, 176–182.
    - Female Labour, Regulations as to, *Feb. 19*, 710.
- Persia, Enterprises of British and Foreign Subjects, Attitude of New Parliament towards, *Feb. 19*, 710.
- Persian Gulf, Trade done by Hamburg-American Steamship Company in 1906, *Feb. 14*, 293.
- Soudan War—Liberation of Dervishes Imprisoned at Damietta, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1034.
- Suez Canal
  - Capital of Company—Shares owned by British Government, etc., *Feb. 18*, 526.
  - Transit-Dues, Proposals for Reduction of — Correspondence with Australian Government, *Feb. 18*, 526.
- Sweden and Norway—New Treaty, Progress of Negotiations as to, *Feb. 26*, 1428.
- Turkey—Reforms in European Vilayets, *Feb. 21*, 1037.

Grocers' Licences (Scotland) Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 25*, 1276.

Guest, Mr. J. C. [Cardiff District]
- Army
  - Auxiliary Forces—Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1376, 1377.
  - Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1374–1378.
  - Reserve, Position of, under the New Scheme, *Feb. 25*, 1375, 1376.

Guiana, British
- Annual Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.

Gulland, Mr. J. W. [Dumfries Burghs]
- Education (Scotland) — Legislative Proposals as to Provision of Meals, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1045.
- Sunday Trading—Legislative Proposals for Dealing with, *Feb. 26*, 1434.

Gurdon, Sir W. B. [Norfolk, N.]
- Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1151–1156, 1182, 1183.

Hague Conference
- Prize Courts, Appeal to Conference from—International Agreement proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. A. Herbert; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Feb. 19*, 696.
- Subjects to be Discussed at and Date of Meeting.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Ashley, Mr. A. Lee; *As.* Mr. Asquith, Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21*, 1052.

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B., *Secretary of State for War* [Haddington]
- Army (Annual) Bill—Amendment, Decision as to, *Feb. 14*, 300.
- Army Service Corps, Reorganisation Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1311, 1319.
- Arsenals, Allocation of Work to avoid Fluctuation of Employment—Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1391, 1392.
- Artillery
  - Composition and Organisation of, *Feb. 25*, 1309–1311, 1317, 1318, 1383, 1384.
  - Territorial Artillery, Armament of, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1298.
- Auxiliary Forces — Reorganistaion Proposals, *Feb. 21*, 1020.
  - Statement, *Feb. 25*, 1286, 1290–1306, 1386.
- Bayonet, New—Decision as to Pattern, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
- Bexhill—War Office Land, Conditions of selling, *Feb. 26*, 1419.
- Cavalry—Composition and Organisation of, *Feb. 25*, 1307, 1308, 1318, 1319.
- Duke of York's School Site, Decision as to Disposal of, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
- Egypt—Method of Slaughtering Cattle for use of British Garrison, *Feb. 20*, 817.
- Estimates
  - Military Co-operation in Framing, Policy of, *Feb. 25*, 1281, 1282.
  - Reduction Effected in, *Feb. 25*, 1279–1282.
- Finner Rifle Range, Reason for Discontinuing use of, *Feb. 21*, 1019.
- First Line, Composition and Strength of, *Feb. 25*, 1287, 1288, 1307.
- General Staff, Functions of, *Feb. 25*, 1290.
- Indian Army—Artillery, Increased Efficiency of, Cost of, etc., *Feb. 25*, 1385.
- Infantry, Composition of, *Feb. 25*, 1307.
- London, Defence of—Proposals for Sale of Sites and Buildings, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
- Malta
  - Garrison—Plain Clothes, Regulations as to Wearing, *Feb. 18*, 536.
  - Roman Catholic Archbishop, Military Rank of, *Feb. 14*, 297.

[*cont.*

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.—*cont.*
- Medical Service
  - Advisory Board, Scottish Medical Representation on, *Feb. 18*, 537.
  - Reorganisation Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1312, 1319, 1320.
- Militia
  - Composition of, Deficiencies in, *Feb. 25*, 1290–1293.
  - Fleetwood Camp Date of Presenting Report on, *Feb. 20*, 819.
  - Infantry of the Second Line, Reorganisation as, *Feb. 25*, 1293.
  - Reduction of Battalions, Proposals as to, *Feb. 20*, 817.
  - Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1291–1293, 1313–1317.
- Officers
  - Disbanded Battalions, Position of Senior Officers of, *Feb. 18*, 535; *Feb. 25*, 1231.
  - Reserve—University, etc., Candidates, Conditions of Enrolment, *Feb. 25*, 1321–1324.
  - Supply of—Committee of Inquiry into Interim Report, *Feb. 25*, 1321–1323.
- Pay and Emoluments of Soldiers, Explanation of Order on, *Feb. 21*, 1021, 1022.
- Pensions
  - Campbell, Honorary Major L. S. Parr, Case of, *Feb. 26*, 1417.
  - McEvoy, P., and T. Pilk, Cases of, *Feb. 21*, 1008, 1009.
- Reform Proposals
  - Cost of, *Feb. 25*, 1327, 1328.
  - Discussion, Arrangements for, *Feb. 25*, 1327, 1328.
  - Statement [Mr. Haldane] *Feb. 25*, 1279–1330.
- Reserve—*A* Reserve, Increase in, for Purposes of a Striking Force, etc., *Feb. 25*, 1312, 1313.
- Salisbury Plain—Proposals for allowing Civilians to erect Permanent Buildings on, *Feb. 14*, 298.
- Second Line, or Territorial Army
  - Commands, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1306.
  - County Associations, Constitution and Functions of, *Feb. 25*, 1304–1306.
  - County Basis, Organisation on, *Feb. 25*, 1300, 1302, 1304.
  - Divisional Organisation, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1295–1298.
  - Duties of, *Feb. 25*, 1303.
  - Mobilisation for War Training, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1301, 1302.
  - Terms of Enlistment, *Feb. 25*, 1299, 1300; *Feb. 26*, 1420, 1421.
  - Training, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1301.

Haldane, Rt. Hon. R. B.—*cont.*
- Soldiers
  - Consumptive — Treatment on Discharge, *Feb. 20*, 818; *Feb. 21*, 1007.
  - Death Sentences passed in 1906, *Feb. 18*, 537.
- South African War—Claim of F. J. Brockett for Paardeburg Clasp, *Feb. 25*, 1242.
- Sparkbrook Gun Factory, Conditions of Purchase, *Feb. 21*, 1009.
- Sword—Recommendation as to New Pattern for Cavalry, *Feb. 25*, 1242.
- Tidworth Barracks, Sewage Disposal—Places of Manufacture of Engines and Pumps, *Feb. 21*, 1007.
- Tidworth Camp, Buildings erected by Private Persons—Authorities consulted on matter, *Feb. 26*, 1419.
- Training Battalions, Proposals for Formation of, *Feb. 25*, 1313–1317.
- Volunteers
  - Financial Liability of Commanding Officers, Removal of, *Feb. 14*, 299; *Feb. 25*, 1294.
  - Organisation of, Deficiencies in, *Feb. 25*, 1294.
  - Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1293–1306.
- War Office
  - Contracts
    - Fair Wages Clause, Observance of in—Rate paid by Messrs. Arundle, *Feb. 20*, 819.
    - Flour Contract—Amount supplied to Stations, etc., *Feb. 18*, 525.
    - Tinned Meat, Allocation of Orders for, *Feb. 25*, 1232.
      - Colonial Firms, Facilities for tendering, *Feb. 20*, 818.
  - Hours of Labour of Officials, *Feb. 22*, 1151.
- Woolwich Explosion—Government Proposals for making good Damage done to Private Property, *Feb. 14*, 299; *Feb. 18*, 535.
- X-Ray Tubes, System of Supply of, *Feb. 26*, 1418.
- Yeomanry Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1293.

Halpin, Mr. J. [Clare, W.]
- Ballaghalin Fishing Pier, Decision as to, *Feb. 18*, 527; *Feb. 25*, 1265.
- National School Teachers
  - Characters, Abolition of Periodical Certification, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1444.
  - Salaries, Procedure in paying, *Feb. 26*, 1444.
- Poor Law Relieving Officers, Qualifications required of, *Feb. 26*, 1446.

Hampden, Viscount
- Sat first in Parliament after the Death of his Father, *Feb. 12*, 4.

Harcourt, Rt. Hon. L.—*First Commissioner of Works* [Lancashire, N.E., Rossendale]
- Government Departments—Wages of Employees, Decision as to increasing, *Feb. 21*, 1066.
- Kensington Gardens, Pruning and lopping of Trees in, Authority for, *Feb. 21*, 1060, 1061.
- Parks and Gardens—Wages of Labourers and Gangers, Reasons for increase in, *Feb. 21*, 1058, 1060, 1061, 1062, 1064, 1065.
- Parliament
  - Buildings, Vote for—Increase in, Explanation of Items, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1078, 1079.
  - House of Commons
    - Bar in the Chamber, Removal of, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1087.
    - Dining-room, new
      - Criticisms on, *Feb. 21*, 1087.
      - Expenditure on, *Feb. 21*, 1079, 1088.
    - Division Lobbies
      - Doors, Closing of, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1088.
      - Expenditure on Alterations to, *Feb. 21*, 1079.
    - Lifts, increasing Number of, *Feb. 21*, 1087.
    - Lighting of, Defects in, *Feb. 21*, 1087.
    - Lockers, Provision of, *Feb. 21*, 1088.
    - Secretaries' Room, Inadequate Accommodation in, *Feb. 21*, 1069.
    - Ventilation
      - Expenditure on, Explanation of increase in Estimate, *Feb. 21*, 1079.
      - Necessity for Improvement in, *Feb. 21*, 1069, 1070, 1087, 1088.

Hardie, Mr. J. K. [Merthyr Tydvil]
- Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 104, 105.
- Army Arsenals, Allocation of Work to avoid fluctuation of Employment—Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1392.
- Coal Export, Increase in, *Feb. 25*, 1249.
- Education (Provision of Meals) Act, Extension of, to Scotland—Omission of Reference to in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 106.

Hardie, Mr. J. K.—*cont.*
- Hollesley Bay Labour Colony—Amount of Local Government Board Grant to, *Feb. 20*, 966.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 104–111; *Feb. 13*, 265–268; *Feb. 20*, 965–969.
  - Eleven O'clock Rule, Suspension of—Proposals as to Prolongation of Debate, *Feb. 18*, 566.
- Law Courts—Appointment of Solicitor to advise Poor Litigants, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 838.
- Mines (Hours of Labour) Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 105.
- Old Age Pensions
  - Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 265–268.
  - Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 106, 107.
- Parliamentary Procedure, Reform Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 104.
- Russia, Atrocities in—Intervention of Great Britain proposed, *Feb. 12*, 104.
- Small Holdings Bill, proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 106.
- Unemployed
  - Drink at the root of the evil, alleged, *Feb. 12*, 107.
  - Emigration Work of the Central London Body, *Feb. 20*, 967.
  - Funds, Administration of, *Feb. 12*, 110, 111; *Feb. 20*, 966–968.
  - Machinery and Labour-saving Devices, the cause of Unemployment, *Feb. 20*, 965.
  - Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 107–111.
  - Opportunity for discussing, *Feb. 20*, 855.
  - Proposals for dealing with, Information as to, *Feb. 20*, 967.
- Unemployed Workmen Bill, 1905—Amendment of, Necessity for, *Feb. 20*, 965, 966.
- Women
  - Local Bodies, Eligibility for serving on—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 105, 106.
  - Riot outside Houses of Parliament—Measures taken to quell, *Feb. 13*, 272.
- Workmen's Compensation Act, Insurance under—Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 106.

Hardy, Mr. L. [Kent, Ashford]
- Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1170–1176, 1190.
- Parliament Buildings, Vote for—Discussion of, Opportunity for, *Feb. 21*, 1077.

Harris, Lord

Africa, East—Portuguese Native Labour Recruiting for the Transvaal Mines—Question as to Robinson Group, etc., *Feb. 19*, 676.

Colonial Office—Speeches of Under-Secretary, Precedents for Cabling to South Africa, *Feb. 19*, 674, 675.

Transvaal

- Labour Question in—Government Attitude towards, *Feb. 19*, 675, 676.
- Witwatersrand Association.
  - Recruiting Methods of, alleged Attack on, by Under-Secretary for the Colonies, *Feb. 19*, 676–679.
  - Speech of Under-Secretary for the Colonies on Dec. 18, Reasons for Cabling to South Africa, *Feb. 19*, 674–679.

Harrison's Patent Bill

l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Hart-Davies, Mr. T. [Hackney, N.]

Army—Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund Accounts, Regulations as to Publishing, *Feb. 18*, 531.

Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contributions towards—Bringing Question before Colonial Conference, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 463.

India—Judicial and Executive Functions, Decision as to Separation of, *Feb. 18*, 531.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 463.

Navy—Painting and Decorating Ships by Officers out of their Private Funds, *Feb. 25*, 1240.

Postmasters, Local, Holiday on Christmas Day, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1235.

Stoke Newington Post Office Accommodation, Inadequacy of and proposals for Improving, *Feb. 25*, 1235.

Hay, Mr. C. G. D. [Shoreditch, Hoxton]

Law Courts—Supreme Court of Judicature, Vote for—Items of, Explanation of, *Feb. 21*, 1119.

Parliament

- House of Commons
  - Committees, Increase in Estimate for Expenditure of, *Feb. 21*, 1097.
  - Shorthand Writers
    - Conditions of Employment, Rate of Pay, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1097, 1098.
    - Printing of Reports, etc., Delay Involved in sending to Reading, *Feb. 21*, 1101, 1102.

Hay, Mr. C. G. D.—*cont.*

Parliament—*cont.*

- Papers, Distribution of—Wages of Persons employed, Information as to, *Feb. 21*. 1096.
- "Parliamentary Debates"—Reports of Speeches, *Feb. 21*, 1096, 1097.
- Parliamentary Election Petitions—Legal Expenses in connection with, Information as to, *Feb. 21*, 1119, 1124.
- Women's Suffrage Disturbance outside House of Commons — Conduct of Police, etc., *Feb. 13*, 270, 272.
- Worcester Parliamentary Election—Proceedings, Expenditure in Connection with, *Feb. 21*, 1119, 1120.

Hayden, Mr. J. P. [Roscommon, S.]

Clanricarde Estates, Situation on, Treatment of Evicted Tenants, etc., *Feb. 14*, 333, 334.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 329–337, 374.

Reinstatements, under Land Act, 1903, Progress made with and proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 313, 329–337, 374.

Roscommon

- Land Purchase Transactions in, *Feb. 21*, 1047.
- Untenanted Land, Purchase Proposals for, *Feb. 26*, 1416.

Hazel, Dr. A. E. W. [West Bromwich]

India—Appointment of Professor of Arabic to Aligarh Anglo-Mahomedan College, *Feb. 19*, 704.

Heaton, Mr. J. H. [Canterbury]

Suez Canal

- Capital of Company—Shares owned by British Government, etc., *Feb. 18*, 526.
- Transit Dues, Proposals for Reduction of—Correspondence with Australian Government, *Feb. 18*, 526.

Helme, Mr. N. W. [Lancashire, N., Lancaster]

Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, necessity for bringing Up-to-Date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 394, 395.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 394.

Helmsley, Lord [Yorks, N.R., Thirsk]

Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing Up-to-Date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 383, 384.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 383, 384.

Hemmerde, Mr. E. G. [Denbighshire, E.]
Worcester, Borough of, New Writ for—Motion for Issue of, Time given for, Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14*, 320–322.

Heneage, Lord
Moray Firth, Trawling in, by Foreign Vessels—Proposals for settling matter under Dispute, *Feb. 21*, 993.

Henderson, Mr. A. [Durham, Barnard Castle]
Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 641.
Army Arsenals, Allocation of work to avoid Fluctuation of Employment—Committee of Inquiry, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1386–1388.
Factories
  Number not visited in 1905 and 1906, *Feb. 21*, 1039.
  Particulars Section of Act, Extension of, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1039.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 638–643.
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1156–1158.
Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 641–643.
Unionist Party—Social Reforms effected by, *Feb. 18*, 638–640.

Herbert, Mr. T. A. [Buckinghamshire, Wycombe]
Hague Conference, International Agreement for Appeal to from Prize Courts, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 696.

Heywood and Middleton Water Board Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 498.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Higham, Mr. J. S. [Yorkshire, W.R., Sowerby]
War Office—Hours of Labour of Officials, *Feb. 22*, 1150.

Hill, Sir C. L. [Shrewsbury]
Worcester Borough, New Writ for—Motion for Issue of, Time given for, Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14*, 323.

Hills, Mr. J. W. [Durham]
Colonial Conference, 1887, Matters discussed at, *Feb. 19*, 724.
Colonial Conference, 1897, Preferential Tariffs, Resolutions in favour of, *Feb. 19*, 725.
Colonial Conference, 1907, Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 19*, 723.

Hills, Mr. J. W.—*cont.*
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 723–732.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 723–732.

Hobart, Sir R. [Hants, New Forest]
Westminster City Council Contracts, Auditor's Report on—Inquiry proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1253.

Hobhouse, Mr. C. E. H. [Bristol, E.]
Army
  Rawul Pindi Barracks, Condition of, *Feb. 20*, 828; *Feb. 25*, 1245.
  Supply and Transport Corps—Pay of Officers, *Feb. 25*, 1245.
Judicial and Executive Functions, Proposals for Separation of, *Feb. 25*, 1244.
Opium
  Indian Revenue (1906–7) *Feb. 20*, 827.
  Malwa Opium, Duty on, *Feb. 20*, 826.
  Price per Seer paid to Indian Cultivators, *Feb. 20*, 827.
Poppy Cultivation—Proposals for reducing Area, *Feb. 20*, 827.
Railway Rolling Stock, Deficiency in, *Feb. 25*, 1244.

Hodge, Mr. J. [Lancashire, S.E., Gorton]
Huddersfield Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed, *Feb. 22*, 1142.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 221, 222.
Old-Age Pensions, Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 221, 222.
Post Office Registration, Scale of Charges for, *Feb. 21*, 1040.

Hogan, Mr. M. [Tipperary, N.]
O'Dwyer Estate, Sale of—Reinstatement Claim of P. Hogan, *Feb. 21*, 1049.

Hollesley Bay
Labour Colony—Amount of Local Government Board Grant to.
  Os. Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 956; Mr. K. Hardie, 966.

Holyrood Chapel
See under Edinburgh.

Home Defence
See under Defence of the Empire.

Home Office
Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.
Under-Secretary—Mr. H. Samuel.

Home Rule
See under Ireland.

Home Work Regulation Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 21*, 1057.

Honduras, British
Annual Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.
Post Office Money Order Agreement Presented, *Feb. 20*, 814.

Hooper, Mr. A. G. [Dudley.]
Railway Rates, Agreement as to Equalisation, Terms of, *Feb. 21*, 1043.

Hop Pockets
Marking of—Application of Act to Imported Hops.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 26*, 1441.

Hounslow
Clarke, Mr. A., Case of.
Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Feb. 20*, 822.

House of Commons
See under Parliament.

House of Lords
See under Parliament.

House of Lords (Reform) Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 21*, 979.

Housing of the Working Classes
Ireland—Facilitating Issue of Loans proposed.
Qs. Mr. Joyce; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1447.
Legislative Proposals as to.
Os. Earl Percy, *Feb. 18*, 575, 576; Mr. Masterman, 613.
Loans, Interest Charged on—Recommendations of Select Committee.
Q. Mr. Morrell; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 20*, 833.

Housing of the Working Classes, &c., Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1453.
Proposals as to.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 11; Earl of Chichester, 17; Mr. Vivian, 115, 116; Sir E. Sassoon, 117.
References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

Huddersfield
Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Hodge; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 22*, 1142, 1143.

Hudson, Mr. W. [Newcastle-on-Tyne]
Midland Railway Company—Hours of Labour of Engine Drivers and Firemen, *Feb. 21*, 1044.

Hull and Barnsley Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 282.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1222.

Humber Conservancy Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Hunt, Mr. R. [Shropshire, Ludlow]
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies.
Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 789-794.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 789-794.
Navy
Channel Fleet, Strength of, *Feb. 19*, 698.
Home Fleet, Strength of, and Ability to meet Sudden Attacks, *Feb. 25*, 1241, 1242.
New Hebrides—Child Labour, Provisions as to, *Feb. 19*, 706, 707.
War Office Tinned Meat Contracts, Allocation of, *Feb. 19*, 701; *Feb. 20*, 818; *Feb. 25*, 1232.

Hyde, Mr. C. G. [Wednesbury]
Limited Liability Companies—Compulsory Reserve Funds, Regulations as to, in Foreign Countries, *Feb. 18*, 529.

Hyde Park
Refreshment Kiosk in, Provision and Maintenance of.
Os. Col. Lockwood, *Feb. 21*, 1059.

Imperial Institute
Crown Agents, Work of, in Connection with.
Q. Mr. Walker; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21*, 1032, 1033.

Imperial Ottoman Guaranteed Loan
See under Turkey.

Imports
See Exports and Imports.

Income Tax
Civil Servants, Liability of.
Q. Mr. W. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 26*, 1430.
Collection
Date of Serving Final Notices in London.
Q. Mr. McCrae; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 21*, 1054.
Issue of Ten-day Notices in England and Scotland.
Qs. Mr. McCrae, Mr. C. E. Price, Mr. C. Money; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 18*, 547, 548.
Postal Employees, Liability of, as to Overtime Earnings.
Q. Mr. W. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 26*, 1430.

India

- Administration
  - Judicial and Executive Functions—Decision as to Separation of.
    - *Q.* Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 18*, 531.
    - *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 18*, 538, 539.
    - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 25*, 1243, 1244.
- Adminstrative Policy
  - References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 2.
    - *Os.* Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 6; Marquess of Lansdowne, 22; Marquess of Ripon, 34.
- Aligarh Anglo-Mahomedan College, Appointment of Professor of Arabic to.
  - *Q.* Dr. Hazel; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*, 704, 705.
- Army
  - Artillery, Increased Efficiency of, Cost, etc.
    - *Os.* Sir C. Dilke, *Feb. 25*, 1339, 1340; Mr. Wyndham, 1381; Mr. Haldane, 1385.
  - Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund Accounts, Regulation as to Publishing.
    - *Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14*, 295, 296.
    - *Q.* Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 18*, 531.
  - Poona, Cost of Married Quarters at.
    - *Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14*, 295.
  - Rawul Pindi Barracks, Condition of—Number of Men in 10th Hussars taken Ill, etc.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Rose, Mr. Lea; *As.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 20*, 827, 828.
    - *Qs.* Mr. Rose, Mr. Lea; *As.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 25*, 1245.
  - Supply and Transport Corps—Pay of Officers.
    - *Q.* Mr. J. A. Bryce; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 25*, 1245.
- Bhola District Courts, Allegations as to Irregularity in Holding.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21*, 1015, 1016.
- Bombay Liquor Licensing, Regulations as to Sale of Drinks to Persons under Fourteen.
  - *Q.* Mr. H. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*, 705.
- Darjeeling—Special Grant to St. Paul's School.
  - *Q.* Mr. Laidlaw; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 18*, 539.
- Delhi—Appointment and Duties of Mr. Addison.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21*, 1015.

India—*cont.*

- Canada, Sikhs Destitute in, *see under* Canada.
- Education, Free Primary—Placing Copy of Circular Letter in Library, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14*, 294.
- Excise Committee—Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 43, 52.
- Factory Labour Inquiry, Continuing during Hot Season, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*, 704.
- Flogging as Judicial Punishment, Report on—Proposal as to Tabling.
  - *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley. *Feb. 19*, 703.
- Ganges Bridge Committee, Representation of Planters of Assam and Darjeeling on.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14*, 293.
- Gold Standard Reserve—Limit of Silver Portion.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*. 704,
- Lahore
  - Allegations as to Hooting of Europeans by Natives in.
    - *Qs.* Major Anstruther-Gray, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 26*. 1421, 1422.
  - Sentences on Proprietor and Editor of *Punjabi.*
    - *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21*, 1022, 1023.
- Legislative Councils Committee—Date of Presenting Report.
  - *Qs.* Sir H. Cotton, Earl Percy; *As.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 18*, 538.
- Madras High Court Judgeships—Proposals for Filling Vacancies.
  - *Q.* Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21*, 1023.
- Madras Estates Land Bill—Effect on Position of Zemindars.
  - *Q.* Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*, 695.
- Nepaul—Circumstances of Murder of Mr. Bloomfield.
  - *Q.* Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 26*. 1421,
- Poppy Cultivation—Proposals for Reducing Area.
  - *Qs.* Mr. Lupton; Sir H. Cotton, *Ar.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 20* 827.
  - *Q.* Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 26*, 1422.
- Railways, Rolling Stock, Delivery of and Proposals for Increasing.
  - *Q.* Sir S. King; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21*, 1016.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. A. Bryce; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 25*, 1244.

[*cont.*

India—*cont.*

Roorkie Workshops—Case of Mr. McGanagall.
Q. Mr. Meehan; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 20,* 824.

Trade with British Possessions and Foreign Countries (1901 – 1906) — Tables Presented, *Feb. 20,* 814; *Feb. 21,* 978.

Trade with Germany, Character and Importance of.
Os. Sir C. Dilke, *Feb. 19,* 744; Sir H. Vincent, 760, 761.

Vagrancy, Imprisonment for, in 1905.
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21,* 1022.

Wireless Telegraphy, Experiments in.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 18,* 537.

India Office

Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. J. Morley.

Under-Secretary—Mr. C. E. H. Hobhouse.

Industrial and Provident Societies

Regulation (31st December, 1906), Presented, *Feb. 12,* 45, 56.

Report of Chief Registrar, Presented, *Feb. 25,* 1220, 1225.

Inebriates Act

Ireland, Transfers in—Regulations Presented, *Feb. 12,* 46, 54.

Infant Life Protection Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 19,* 723.

Infant Mortality

Proposals for dealing with Matter.
Q. Mr. Rogers, Mr. L. Jones; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25,* 1254, 1255.

Inland Revenue

Documents accruing in Department of Insufficient Value to justify Preservation, Schedule Presented, *Feb. 18,* 496, 522.

Inquiry, Scope of, and Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 20,* 823, 824.

Intestate Husband's Estate (Scotland) Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 419.

Ireland

Chief Secretary—Rt. Hon. A. Birrell.

Lord Lieutenant—Earl of Aberdeen.

Attorney-General—Rt. Hon. R. R. Cherry

Solicitor-General—Mr. R. Barry.

[*For* Particular Places, Estates, etc., *see their Names.*]

Administrative Boards, Number and Work of.
Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 12,* 92–95; Mr. W. Long, *Feb. 13,* 192.

Ireland—*cont.*

Administrative Changes.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12,* 8–10; Marquess of Lansdowne, 29, 30; Marquess of Ripon, 37; Mr. Tomkinson, 60; Mr. Rainy, 61, 62; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 68–70; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 85; Mr. K. Hardie, 104, 105; Mr. Long, *Feb. 13,* 186; Mr. Birrell, 200–203; Mr. C. E. Price, 210; Earl Percy, *Feb. 18,* 577–580; Mr. Asquith, 588–594; Mr. A. Henderson, 641; Mr. Birrell, 665–668.

Criticisms on Past and Present Administrations.
Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 12,* 90–98; Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 13,* 198, 199; Mr. C. Craig, 205–208.

Nationalist Party Attitude.
Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 12,* 89, 90.

References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12,* 3.

Agriculture and Technical Instruction Department, *see that title.*

Boycotting and Intimidation in.
Os. Mr. W. Long, *Feb. 13,* 191; Mr. Birrell, 197, 198.

Statistics, Return as to proposed.
Q. Mr. J. F. Mason; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20,* 854.

Chief Secretary's Office

Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary during Autumn Session.
Os. Mr. Meysey - Thompson, *Feb. 21,* 1105–1107; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1107, 1108, 1112; Mr. Morton, 1108; Mr. Birrell, 1109; Mr. W. Rutherford, 1111; Mr. W. Ashley, 1112; Sir F. Banbury, 1112, 1113.

Vote for Salaries and Expenses of, *Feb. 21,* 1105.

Church Temporalities, *see under* Land Commission.

Committals for Trial during 1906—Returns Presented, *Feb. 18,* 673, 690.

Congested Districts Commission Report, Presented, *Feb. 12,* 42, 52.

Constabulary Royal Irish, *see that title.*

Crimelessness of.
Os. Mr. W. Long, *Feb. 13,* 191; Mr. Birrell, 197.

Drainage, Arterial—Date of Presenting Commission Report.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21,* 1018.

Ireland—*cont.*

Drunkenness, Arrests for—Return ordered, *Feb. 21*, 1055.

Education, *see that title.*

Evictions

Notices filed—Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 43, 54.

Reinstatements, Progress made with and Proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc.
Os. Mr. Hayden, *Feb. 14*, 329–337; 374; Mr. H. Law, 337–340; Mr. Dillon, 341–352; Mr. Gooch, 352–354; Mr. O'Shee, 354-359; Mr. T. W. Russell, 359–361; Mr. W. Redmond, 362–364; Mr. Birrell, 364–371; Mr. J. Redmond, 371; Mr. Long, 371–373; Mr. Nolan, 373.
Q. Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14*, 313.

Sum contributed by Irish Nationalist Party.
Os. Mr. Barrie, Mr. H. Law, *Feb. 12*, 130.

Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 43, 54.

Hibernian Academy, Royal—Decision as to Recommendations of Commission.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 19*, 719.

Home Rule

Government Proposals as to, Necessity for defining.
Os. Mr. W. Long, *Feb. 13*, 186–196; Mr. Birrell, 200; Mr. C. Craig, 204, 208, 209; Earl Percy, *Feb. 18*, 577, 578, 579; Mr. Asquith, 590, 592, 593; Mr. Carlile, 597, 798; Mr. S. Roberts, 609, 610; Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, 614, 615; Sir F. Banbury, 625; Captain Craig, 637, 638; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 655–659.

Irish Unionist Party, Position of.
Os. Mr. Barrie, *Feb. 12*, 131, 132; Mr. C. Craig, *Feb. 13*, 205.

Nationalist Party Attitude.
Os. Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 12*, 90, 99–104; Mr. Barrie, 128–130.

Industries, Condition of.
Os. Mr. C. Craig, *Feb. 13*, 206; Mr. C. E. Price, 210.

Inebriate Homes, Estimate for.
Os. Mr. Morton, *Feb. 21*, 1108; Mr. Birrell, 1109, 1110, 1113; Mr. Staveley-Hill, 1110; Mr. L. Jones, 1110, Mr. H. Beach, 1110; Mr. W. Rutherford, 1110, 1111; Mr. Cullinan, 1111; Sir F. Banbury, 1113, 1114; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1114.

Ireland—*cont.*

Irish Language, *see that title.*

Judgeship, Appointment to, *see* Law Courts—Ireland.

Labourers' Acts and Cottages, *see title* Labourers (Ireland) Acts.

Land Commission, Land Judges Court, Land Purchase, *see those titles.*

Law Courts, *see that title.*

Potato Crop, Fears of Failure of, and Proposals for dealing with Distress.
Q. Mr. O'Malley; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14*, 312.
Qs. Mr. Dillon; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 848, 849.

Royal University—Royal Warrant amending Statutes Presented, *Feb. 12*, 43, 54.

Trinity College

Commission Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 52.

Estates Commission, Proposals for carrying out recommendations of.
Qs. Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 852.

University Education, Proposals as to. References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 10, 11; Marquess of Lansdowne, 29; Marquess of Ripon, 37; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 71–73; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 86.

Irish International Exhibition

Government Assistance to—Supply of Irish Labour and Goods, etc.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25*, 1267.

Irish Land Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 422.

Irish Land (No. 2) Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1452.

Irish Language

Teaching in Schools

Cost of.
Q. Mr. J. F. Mason; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 19*, 719.

Expenditure on.
Qs. Captain Craig; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14*, 311, 312.

Regulations for.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 561.

Irish Tobacco Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 421.

Proposals as to Facilities for Passage of.
Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 25*, 1273, 1274.

Isaacs, Mr. R. D. [Reading]
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 20*, 876–884, 888.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20*, 876–884.

Italy
Genoa, Port Regulations in—Proposals for Revision.
Q. Mr. Montgomery; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 22*, 1143.
Trade Reports Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40; *Feb. 18*, 496.

Jackson, Mr. R. S. [Greenwich]
Poor Law—Liability of Step-Fathers, Amendment of Law as to, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 820.

Jamaica
Cayman Islands—Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.
Earthquake in Kingstown
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 5; Earl of Chichester, 13; Marquess of Lansdowne, 21; Marquess of Ripon, 33; Mr. Tomkinson, 59; Mr. Rainy, 61.
British Cruiser, Absence of.
O. Sir E. Sassoon, *Feb. 12*, 119.
Grant towards Relief of Distress proposed.
Q. Mr. O. C. Philipps; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18*, 543, 544.
References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 1.

Japan
Consular and Marriage Fees—Order in Council Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 56.

Jardine, Sir J. [Roxburghshire]
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R, *Feb. 22*, 1169, 1170.
Scottish District Lunatic Asylums—Superannuation Allowances of Officers, *Feb. 19*, 718.
Traction Engine Traffic in Scotland—Revision of Regulations proposed, *Feb. 19*, 718.

Joicey-Cecil, Lord J. [Lincolnshire, Stamford]
Militia, Reduction of Battalions, proposals as to, *Feb. 19*, 700; *Feb. 20*, 817.
War Office Flour Contracts—Amount Supplied to Stations, etc., *Feb. 18*, 525.

Jones, Mr. L. [Westmoreland, Appleby]
Inebriate Homes, Ireland, Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1110.
Infant Mortality—Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Feb. 25*, 1255.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 124–126.

Jones, Mr. L.—*cont.*
Licensing Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 124–126.
Liquor Traffic, Loans on Security of Compensation Fund, Conditions of Raising, *Feb. 20*, 839.
Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1215.
London, City of —Case of Michael Hayes—Reason for Non-provision of Shoes, etc., by Poor Law Guardians, *Feb. 19*, 713.
Post Offices on Licensed Premises—Return proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1040.

Jowett, Mr. F. W. [Bradford, W.]
Bacup, Carter Prosecuted for Sleeping while on Duty—proposals for Regulation of Hours of Labour, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1435.
Farsley—Circumstances of Discharge of Employee by Messrs. E. Woodhouse & Co., *Feb. 26*, 1440.
Railways, Automatic Couplings, Experiments with—Date of Presenting Report, *Feb. 26*, 1438.

Joyce, Mr. M. [Limerick]
Housing of the Working Classes, Ireland—Facilitating Issue of Loans, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1447.
Labourers (Ireland) Acts—Urban districts, Extension to, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1046.
Mountshannon Estate, Sale proposals for and Settlement of Claims of Evicted Tenants, *Feb. 26*, 1446.

Judicature Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 25*, 1221.

Judicial Statistics
Criminal Statistics (England and Wales), Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 52.

Jurors (Expenses) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 566.

Jurors' Lists
Ireland, Procedure in Furnishing in.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Cherry, *Feb. 26*, 1415.

Kearley, Mr. H. E.—*Parliamentary Secretary to the Board of Trade* [Devonport]
Castleton—Railway Accident to F. Wilkinson, *Feb. 21*, 1013.
Elliot Junction Railway Disaster—proposals for Publishing Report of Inquiry, *Feb. 21*, 1043.
Railways
Midland Company—Hours of Labour of Engine-drivers and Firemen, *Feb. 21*, 1044.
Rates—Agreement as to Equalisation, Terms of, *Feb. 21*, 1043.

Kekewich, Sir G. W. [Exeter]
Civil Service Boy Clerks, Reply to Memorial from, *Feb. 20*, 823.
Congo Free State Reform proposals—Attitude of British Government, *Feb. 25*, 1226.
Post Office Annual Leave Regulations, *Feb. 21*, 1004.

Kendal Corporation Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 493.

Kennaway, Sir. J. H. [Devonshire Honiton.]
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1199–1202.

Kennedy, Mr. V. P. [Cavan, W.]
Bawnboy Union Potato Crop, Condition of, *Feb. 25*, 1268.
Dernacrieve Post Office, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1271.
Irish International Exhibition, Government Assistance to, etc., *Feb. 25*, 1267.
Land Commission, Fair Rent Appeals, Cases pending, Number struck out, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1048.
Lloyd Estate, Sale Proposals for—Reinstatement Claim of Ellen Reilly, *Feb. 21*, 1017.
Morley Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 21*, 1048.

Kensington Borough Council (Superannuation) Bill.
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Kensington Gardens
Trees in, Authority for pruning and lopping of.
Qs. Colonel Lockwood, *Feb. 21*, 1057; Mr. Harcourt, 1060, 1061.

Kenyon-Slaney, Col. [Shropshire, Newport]
Liquor Traffic—Conditions of raising Loans on Security of Compensation Fund, *Feb. 20*, 839.
St. Helena—Flax Industry in, Grant-in-aid for, *Feb. 26*, 1492.
Securities, Fall in—Proposals for remedying Position, *Feb. 26*, 1431, 1432.
Transvaal—Chinese Labourers, Continuing Importation, right of the Transvaal to decide, *Feb. 26*, 1493, 1494.

Keswick Urban District Council Water Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 282.
2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Kilkeel
Hall Erected on Labourers' Allotment, Allegations as to.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 849.

Kilkeel—*cont.*
Land Acquired by Rural District Council, Procedure in re-conveying to occupier.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 22*, 1149.

King, Sir H. S. [Hull, Central]
India
Army
Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund Accounts, Regulation as to Publishing, *Feb. 14*, 295.
Poona, Cost of Married Quarters at, *Feb. 14*, 295.
Railway Rolling Stock, Delivery of, and Proposals for increasing, *Feb. 21*, 1016.

King Edward's Hospital Fund for London Bill
l. 1R.* *Febb. 18*, 494.

King's Speech on Opening of Parliament
Address in Reply (*for details of Debates, see Subjects of Amendments*)
Agricultural Research—*Motion* [Mr. J. F. Mason], *Feb. 14*, 374.
Colonial Conference, Omission of Reference to—*Motion* [Mr. Hills], *Feb. 19*, 723; *Feb. 20*, 863.
Colonial Contributions towards Defence—*Motion* [Mr. H. Cox], *Feb. 15*, 453.
Debates, *Feb. 12*, 4, 58; *Feb. 13*, 160; *Feb. 14*, 329; *Feb. 15*, 424; *Feb. 18*, 571; *Feb. 19*, 723; *Feb. 20*, 863.
Eleven O'Clock Rule, Suspension of—Proposals as to Prolongation of Debate.
Qs. Mr. A. J. Balfour, *Feb. 18*, 565; Mr. Asquith, 565, 566; Sir H. Cotton, 566; Mr. K. Hardie, 566.
Evicted Tenants in Ireland—*Motion* [Mr. Hayden], *Feb. 14*, 329.
Lords and Commons, differences between—*Motion* [Earl Percy], *Feb. 18*, 571.
Motion [Lord Castletown], *Feb. 12*, 4—Seconder [Earl of Chichester] 12.
Motion [Mr. Tomkinson], *Feb. 12*, 58—Seconder [Mr. Rainy], 60.
Old Age Pensions — *Motion* [Mr. Barnes], *Feb. 13*, 216.
Unemployed, Absence of Proposals as to—*Motion* [Mr. Thorne], *Feb. 20*, 923.
Vaccination Acts, Repeal of Penal Clauses of—*Motion* [Mr. Lupton], *Feb. 14*, 401; *Feb. 15*, 424.
Text of, *Feb. 12*, 1, 3.

King's Norton and Northfield Urban District Council Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 282.
2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Kingston-upon-Hull Corporation Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 282.
2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Kinvara
Harbour Works, Proposals as to.
Qs. Mr. Duffy, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25*, 1268, 1269.
Postal Facilities, Improvement of.
Q. Mr. Duffy; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 25*, 1271.

Labourers (Ireland) Acts
Acquisition of Land under—Distribution of Form 6, etc.
Qs. Mr. Ginnell, Capt. Donelan; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 845–847.
Urban Districts, Extension to, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Farrell, Mr. Joyce, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Cherry, *Feb. 21*, 1046.

Lagos
Jekri Dock Labourers, Illegal Flogging of—Punishment Meted out to Official Responsible.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14*, 305, 306.

Laidlaw, Mr. R. [Renfrewshire, E.]
Elliot Junction Railway Accident
Date of Trial of Driver, *Feb. 18*, 556,
Report of Inquiry, Proposals for Publishing, *Feb. 21*, 1043.
India—Special Grant to St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, *Feb. 18*, 539.

Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 282.

Lancaster, Duchy of
Chancellor—Rt. Hon. Sir H. Fowler.
Accounts (1905–6) Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1220, 1225.

Land Act (Ireland) 1903
Stock, Conditions of Issuing, etc.
Qs. Mr. Ainsworth, Mr. Moore; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 19*. 720, 721.

Land Commission (Ireland)
[*See also* Names of Places and Estates.]
Account—Report of Comptroller and Auditor-General, Presented, *Feb. 26*, 1400.
Cases Pending.
Q. Mr. Cullinan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1401, 1402.
Church Temporalities—Accounts Presented, *Feb. 26*, 1400.

Land Commission (Ireland)—*cont.*
Fair Rent Appeal Cases Pending, Number Struck out, etc.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1048, 1049.
Inspectors
Number of, Class of Persons Employed, etc.
Qs. Mr. Dillon, *Feb. 14*, 346, 347; Mr. O'Shee, 356, 357.
Proceedings—Returns Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 53; *Feb. 21*, 978, 1002.
Sub-Commissionerships, Conditions of Appointment to.
Q. Mr. Moore; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25*, 1267, 1268.
Temporary Lay Assistant Commissioners, Number of and Proposals as to.
Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 562.
Wilkinson, Mr., Offices Held by.
Q. Mr. T. W. Russell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 560.

Land Judges Court, Ireland
[*For* Particular Estates *see their Names*].
Estates over which Receivers have been Appointed—Return proposed.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 19*, 695.

Land Law (Ireland) Acts Amendment Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 417.

Land Purchase (Ireland)
[*See also* Names of Places, Estates, etc.]
Advances
Number Applied for and Proposals for Expediting Business.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 851.
Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 54.
Annuities—Writs Issued for Recovery.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 847, 848.
Bonus—Return as to Estates in respect of which Bonus has been paid.
Q. Mr. Ginnell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 848.
Priority—Regulations as to Procedure.
Qs. Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Lonsdale; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1049.
Transactions, Information as to and Proposals for Expediting Procedure.
Qs. Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1046, 1047.

Land Registry (New Buildings) Act, 1900
Accounts Presented, *Feb. 19*, 690.

Land Tenure, Scotland
Legislative Proposals
References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 8; Mr. Rainy, 61; Mr. Crombie, 121.

Feb. 12—*Feb.* 26.

Land Valuation, England and Wales
- Legislative Proposals.
  - *Os.* Earl of Chichester, *Feb. 12*, 15; Marquess of Ripon, 38.
- Reference to in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 15.

Land Values (Scotland) Bill
- Committee on, Expenditure of
  - *Os.* Mr. V. Cavendish, *Feb. 21*, 1096; Mr. Runciman, 1099, 1100; Mr. S. Wortley, 1100; Mr. Dalziel, 1100.

Lane-Fox, Mr. G. [Yorkshire, W.R., Barkston Ash]
- Agriculture Board Office Accommodation, Improvement in, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 721.
- Teachers' Superannuation Fund, Information as to, *Feb. 19*, 716.

Lansdowne, Marquess of
- Administrative Changes in Ireland, *Feb. 12*, 29, 30.
- Afghanistan—Visit of Ameer to India, *Feb. 12*, 22.
- Army Reorganisation, Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 28.
- Australian States Constitution Bill, 2R., *Feb. 26*, 1396.
- Business of the House, Proposals as to—Possibility of Autumn Session, etc., *Feb. 12*, 27, 31.
- Colonial Conference—Omission of Mention in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 21.
- Defence of the United Kingdom against Invasion
  - Number of Men and Ships necessary to effect a successful Action, *Feb. 19*, 513.
  - Navy as a Guarantee against, *Feb. 19*, 512, 513.
  - Possibility of, Measures taken to deal with, *Feb. 18*, 513–515.
- Goschen, Viscount, Death of—Tributes to Services, etc., *Feb. 12*, 18, 19.
- India—Administrative Policy, *Feb. 12*, 22.
- Jamaica—Earthquake in Kingstown, *Feb. 12*, 21.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 18–31.
- Licensing Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 28.
- New Hebrides
  - Convention with France, Provision of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 12*, 20.
  - Indentured Labour in, Conditions of Service—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 12*, 20.
- Parliament
  - Relations between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 12*, 12, 23–27.

Lansdown Marquess of—*cont.*
- Parliament—*cont.*
  - Sittings of House of Lords to be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, *Feb. 18*, 498.
- Transvaal Native Labour Recruiting Methods of Witwatersrand Association
  - Attack on, by Under-Secretary for the Colonies alleged, *Feb. 19*, 684, 685.
  - Speech of Under-Secretary for the Colonies on 18th December, Reason for cabling to South Africa, *Feb. 19*, 683, 684.
- University Education in Ireland, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 12*, 29.

Larne
- School Erection, Cause of Delay in dealing with.
  - *Q.* Mr. Dillon; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 26*, 1413.

Laundries
- Religious Institutions, Inspection in.
  - *Qs.* Mr. T. L. Corbett; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18*, 550.

Law, Mr. A. B. [Camberwell, Dulwich].
- Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 794–804.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 794–803, 807.

Law, Mr. H. A. [Donegal, W.]
- Dunfanaghy Postal Facilities, Improvement of, proposed. *Feb. 22*, 1145.
- Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of.
  - Number effected, Proposals for expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 337–340.
  - Sum contributed by Irish Nationalist Party, *Feb. 12*, 130.
- Falchorrib Marine Works, Proposals as to, *Feb. 22*, 1150.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 337–340.
- Women's Suffrage Disturbance outside House of Commons, Reason for Differences in Sentences inflicted, *Feb. 18*, 552.

Law Courts
- Ireland
  - High Court of Appeal, Appointment of Judge in
    - Dodd, Sergeant, Qualifications of,
      - *Os.* Mr. Moore, *Feb. 25*, 1345, 1351; Mr. J. MacVeagh, 1355; Mr. Birrell, 1359.
      - *Qs.* Mr. Moore, Mr. J. MacVeagh; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25*, 1269, 1270.
      - *Motion* (Mr. Moore), *Feb. 25*, 1274.

[*cont.*

Law Courts—*cont.*
Ireland—*cont.*
High Court of Appeal—*cont.*
Reduction of Judgeships, Pledges as to and Proposals for Allocation of Money saved.
Os. Mr. Moore, *Feb. 25*, 1346, 1358; Viscount Castlereagh, 1353; Mr. Dillon, 1358; Mr. Birrell, 1360; Mr. Long, 1362.
Judicial Etiquette as to Defence of judicial conduct in a Newspaper.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 14*, 292, 293.
King's Bench Division—List of Documents of not sufficient Value to justify Preservation, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 47, 57.
Poor Litigants, Appointment of Solicitor to advise, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Alden, Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 20*, 837, 838.
Supreme Court of Judicature
Rules Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 57.
Vote for, *Feb. 21*, 1119.
Items of, Explanation of.
Os. Mr. C. Hay, *Feb. 21*, 1119; Mr. Morton, 1120; Sir J. Walton, 1120; Mr. Myer, 1123; Mr. Morton, 1123.

Lea, Mr. H. C. [St. Pancras, E.]
Indian Army—Condition of Rawal Pindi Barracks, *Feb. 20*, 828; *Feb. 25*, 1245.
Malta Garrison—Regulations as to wearing Plain Clothes, *Feb. 18*, 536.
Navy
"Albemarle" and "Commonwealth," Information as to Collision between, *Feb. 18*, 535.
Officers, Retired—Admiralty Power of preventing Indiscreet Public Expression of Opinions on Naval and Political Matters, *Feb. 18*, 534.
Soliders—Death Sentence passed in 1906 *Feb. 18*, 536.
Tullamore, Smuggling of Spirits at—Proposals for dealing with matter, *Feb. 18*, 548.

Leasehold Enfranchisement Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1452.

Lee, Mr. A. H. [Hampshire, Fareham]
Army—Second Line, Terms of Service of, *Feb. 26*, 1420.
Greenwich Hospital, Age Pensions, Conditions of Granting, *Feb. 19*, 697.
Hague Conference, Subjects to be discussed at and Date of Meeting, *Feb. 21*, 1052.
Naval Patrol Ships in Outlying Stations, Proposals as to, *Feb. 26*, 1417, 1418.

Leeds Corporation Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 282.
2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Leek, Caldon, Low and Hartington Light Railways (Borrowing and Further Powers Amendment)
Order Presented, *Feb. 18*, 496, 519.

Leese, Sir J. F. [Lancashire, N.E., Accrington]
Dog Licences—Notices of Objections. Regulations as to Payment of Postage of, *Feb. 18*, 529.

Lehmann, Mr. R. C. [Leicester, Market Harborough]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 410.
Transvaal, Chinese Labour—Crime, Statistics and Information as to, *Feb. 18*, 542.
Vaccination Acts—Repeal of Penal Clauses, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 410.

Leicester
Vaccination Question in, Immunity of the Town from Smallpox, etc.
Os. Mr. T. F. Richards, *Feb. 15*, 444, 445.

Leith
Shop Hours Act—Confirmation of Closing Orders.
Q. Mr. M. Ferguson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 18*, 523.

Lewis, Isle of
Balinakill Burial Ground, Measures for Enlargement of.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 25*, 1231, 1232.
School Water Supply, Improvements effected in.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 25*, 1233.

Liberal Party
Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc.
Os. Earl Percy, *Feb. 18*, 572–577; Mr. Asquith, 587; Mr. Carlile, 598; Mr. A. Taylor, 601–603; Mr. S. MacNeill, 603, 604; Mr. Masterman, 614; Mr. Paul, 621; Mr. Lonsdale, 630, 631; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 660.

Licensed Premises (Election Days) Closing Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 422.

Lights on Vehicles Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 419.

Lights and Lighthouses
Irish Lights Board, Proposals for Reforming.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25,* 1238.

Limited Liability Companies
Compulsory Reserve Funds, Regulations as to, in Foreign Countries.
Q. Mr. Hyde; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 18,* 529.

Lincoln
North Lindsey or Brigg—New Writ issued, *Feb. 12,* 48.

Liquor Traffic
Brewers' Licences, etc.—Return (1905–6) ordered, *Feb. 13,* 156; Presented, *Feb. 14,* 288.

Children taken into Public-houses—Legislative Proposals for dealing with matter.
Q. Mr. G. White; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 26,* 1414.

Clubs selling Alcoholic Liquor, Ownership and Registration of.
Q. Mr. Raphael; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18,* 550.

Legislative Proposals for dealing with.
Q. Mr. C. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 26,* 1434.

References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12,* 3.
Os. Earl of Chichester, *Feb. 12,* 13; Marquess of Lansdowne, 28; Marquess of Ripon, 37; Mr. Tomkinson, 59; Mr. L. Jones, 124–126; Mr. Barrie, 127; Mr. Bottomley, *Feb. 13,* 214.

Licences—Statistics as to Refusals, etc.
Q. Sir E. Sassoon; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18,* 523.

[Loans on Security of Compensation Fund, Conditions of Raising.
Qs. Col. Kenyon-Slaney, Mr. L. Jones; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 20,* 839.

Liquor Traffic (Local Option) (Scotland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 418.

Liquor Traffic (Local Veto) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 420.
2R., *Feb. 22,* 1215.

Liscarroll
Glenfield Experimental Farm, Decision as to Abandonment.
Q. Mr. Flynn; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20,* 850, 851.

Llanasa
School—Report as to Erection, Presented, *Feb. 12,* 42, 53.

Llandrindod Wells Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 283.
2R.* *Feb. 19,* 689.

Lloyd Estate
Sale Proposals for—Reinstatement Claim of Ellen Reilly.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21,* 1017, 1018.

Lloyd-George, Right Hon. D.—*The President of the Board of Trade* [Carnavon Boroughs.]

Coal Export Duty, Effect of Removal of, *Feb. 25,* 1249.

Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 20,* 892–906, 909.

Gambling in Options, etc., Colonial and Foreign Legislation as to—Date of Presenting Return, *Feb. 14.* 292.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20,* 892–906.

Lights Board, Irish, Proposals for Reforming, *Feb. 25.* 1238,

Limited Liability Companies—Compulsory Reserve Funds, Regulations as to in Foreign Countries, *Feb. 18,* 529.

"Moravia" and "Stag," loss of—Proposals as to Inquiry, *Feb. 25,* 1235.

Railways
Automatic Couplings, Experiments with—Date of Presenting Reports, *Feb. 26,* 1438.

Great Northern (Ireland) Company—Accommodation for Holders of Second Class Subscription Tickets, *Feb. 21,* 1012.

Hours of Labour of Employees
Measures Taken to Prevent Excessive Hours in certain Branches, *Feb. 16,* 415.

Returns, Form of, and Information given in, *Feb. 22,* 1147.

Underground, Risks of Fire in—Damage done on Baker Street and Waterloo Line, etc., *Feb. 25,* 1248.

Rona, Island of—Light and Fog Signals, Proposals as to, *Feb. 26,* 1437.

Trade, Board of—Membership of, and Number of Meetings attended by Archbishop of Canterbury, *Feb. 20,* 839.

Trade and Commerce—Statistics for United Kingdom and certain Foreign Countries (1906) *Feb. 21,* 1010,

[*cont.*

Lloyd-George, Rt. Hon. D.—*cont.*
  Unemployed
    Census of, on American System, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1251.
    Returns of Board of Trade, Information given in, *Feb. 22*, 1146; *Feb. 25*, 1251.
    Statistics
      Basis of calculating, *Feb. 18*, 528.
      Effect of Shipbuilding Disputes on Tees and Clyde, *Feb. 25*, 1236.
  United States Import Duty on British Works of Art, *Feb. 25*, 1250.
  Wall-Paper, Imported Foreign, Alleged Restriction on Sale Price of, *Feb. 25*, 1248.
  Waterford Railway Station, Charge on Persons other than Passengers, *Feb. 25*, 1249, 1250.

Local Authorities
  Loans, Legality of Applying to Payment of Permanent Staff.
    Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25*, 1256.

Local Government Board
  President—Rt. Hon. J. Burns.
  Parliamentary Secretary—Dr. Macnamara.
  Constitution of and Occasions of Meeting.
    Qs. Mr. Bottomley; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 18*, 554, 555.

Local Government Board (Ireland)
  Amending Regulations (Unempolyed) Presented, *Feb. 12*, 46, 54.

Local Government Provisional Orders (No. 1) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 13*, 154.
  2R.* *Feb. 21*, 1141.

Local Registration of Title (Ireland) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1453.

Local Taxation
  See Taxation, Local.

Lockwood, Lt. Col. A. [Essex, Epping.]
  House of Commons
    Room for Interviewing Constituents and Transacting Business, Necessity for Provision of, *Feb. 21*, 1076.
    Ventilation, Necessity for Improvement in, *Feb. 21*, 1075.
  Hyde Park—Provision and Maintenance of Refreshment Kiosk in, *Feb. 21*, 1059.
  Kensington Gardens, Authority for Pruning and Lopping of Trees in, *Feb. 21*, 1057.
  Parliamentary Election Petitions, Illegal Expenses in Connection with, *Feb. 21*, 1123.

London
  Case of Michael Hayes—Reason for Non-provision of Shoes, etc., by Poor Law Guardians.
    Qs. Mr. Summerbell, Mr. L. Jones; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 19*, 713, 714.
    Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 26*, 1436, 1437.
  Deaths from Starvation during 1906 and Deaths in Whitechapel (1870–1906) from the same cause.
    Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 19*, 714.

London, Defence of
  Sites and Buildings, Proposals for sale of.
    Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1243.

London County Council
  Wasteful and Prodigal Administration of.
    Os. Sir E. Sassoon, *Feb. 12*, 118.

London County Council (Electric Supply) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 283.

London County Council (General Powers) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 283.

London Electric Supply Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 283.

London Government Scheme (Southwark) Borough Market Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 12*, 154.
  2R.* *Feb. 22*, 1141.

London Port and Docks Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 283.

London United Tramways Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 284.

London and North Western Railway (Superannuation Fund) Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 283.
  2R.* *Feb. 26*, 1398.

Long, Col. C. W. [Worcestershire, Evesham]
  Army—Senior Officers, of Disbanded Battalions, Position of, *Feb. 25*, 1231.

Long, Mr. W. H. [Dublin, S.]
  Administrative Changes in Ireland, proposals as to, *Feb. 13*, 186.
  Boycotting and Intimidation in Ireland, *Feb. 13*, 191.
  Business of the House, Course of, *Feb. 20*, 855.
  Colonial Conference, Omission of Mention in the King's Speech, *Feb. 13*, 185, 186.
  Crimelessness of Ireland, *Feb. 12*, 191.

[*cont.*

Long, Mr. W. H.—*cont.*
- Evictions—Reinstatements, Progress made with and Proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 371–373.
- Home Rule, Government Proposals as to, Necessity for defining, *Feb. 13*, 186–196.
- Irish Administrative Boards, Number and Work of, *Feb. 13*, 192.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 184–196; *Feb. 14*, 371–373; *Feb. 15*, 436–439; *Feb. 20*, 962–964.
- Law Courts—Appointment of Sergeant Dodd to High Court of Appeal Judgeship, *Feb. 25*, 1362.
- Lunacy—Cause of Increase in Ireland, *Feb. 13*, 192.
- New Hebrides Indentured Labour Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 13*, 184.
- Parliamentary Differences between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 13*, 186.
- Unemployed, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 20*, 963, 964.
- Vaccination
  - Efficacy of, as a Preventive of Smallpox, *Feb. 15*, 436.
  - Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 436–439.

Lonsdale, Mr. J. B. [Armagh, Mid.]
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 629–631.
- Land Purchase
  - Advances Applied for and Proposals for Expediting Business, *Feb. 20*, 851.
  - Priority, Regulations as to Procedure, *Feb. 21*, 1049.
- Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 630, 631.
- London, Defence of—Proposals for Sale of Sites and Buildings, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
- Newfoundland Fisheries, *Modus Vivendi* with United States as to—Proposals as to Publishing Correspondence, *Feb. 18*, 540.
- Trinity College Estates Commission, Proposals for carrying out Recommendations of, *Feb. 20*, 852..
- United States Import Duty on British Works of Art, *Feb. 25*, 1250.

Lord Advocate for Scotland
- *Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.*

Lord Chamberlain
- *Viscount Althorp.*

Lord Chancellor
- *Lord Loreburn.*

Lord Chief Justice
- *Lord Alverstone.*

Lord Great Chamberlain
- *Marquess of Cholmondeley.*

Lord Lieutenant of Ireland
- *Earl of Aberdeen.*

Lord President of the Council
- *Earl of Crewe.*

Lord Privy Seal
- *Marquess of Ripon.*

Lough, Mr. T.—*Parliamentary Secretary Board of Education.* [Islington W.]
- Maps, Navy League, Provision of, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 716.
- South Kensington Technological Institute, Progress of Negotiations as to Establishment, etc., *Feb. 19*, 717.
- Teachers' Superannuation Fund, Information as to, *Feb. 19*, 716.

Lovat, Lord
- Auxiliary Forces, Mobilisation of, in the event of War Time required, *Feb. 18*, 504.
- Defence of the United Kingdom against Invasion.
  - Navy as a Guarantee against, *Feb. 18*, 501, 502, 504, 518.
  - Number of Men and Ships necessary to effect a Successful Action, *Feb. 18*, 502, 503, 504, 517.
- Navy
  - Battleships
    - Nominal Roll of Frst-class Battleships fully manned and in active Commission in Home Waters on 13th February, 1907, *Feb. 18*, 498.
    - Nucleus Crews
      - Constitution of a reduced Nucleus Crew, *Feb. 18*, 498.
      - Number of Ships provided with, on 13th February, 1907; *Feb. 18*, 498.
  - Mobilisation Tests at Manœuvres of 14th June, 1906, *Feb. 18*, 503, 504.
  - "Ramillies" H.M.S.—Number of Men on Board on 13th February, 1907, *Feb. 18*, 498.

Lower Thames Tunnel Railways Bill
- c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 284.

Lowther, Rt. Hon. J. W. [Cumberland, Penrith]
- Rulings, *see under titles*, Questions *and* Speaker.

Lucas Peerage
  Petition Presented, *Feb. 21*, 977.

Lunacy
  Commissioners, Patients seen by, etc.—Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 57.
  Ireland, Cause for Increase in.
    Os. Mr. W. Long, *Feb. 13*, 192.
  Poor Law Relieving Officers' Charges for Conveyance of Persons to Asylums (1896–1906).
    Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 821.
  Scottish District Asylums—Superannuation Allowances of Officers.
    Q. Sir J. Jardine; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 19*, 718.
  Visitors of Lunatics, Sums received by—Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 58.

Lundon, Mr. W. [Limerick, E.]
  Dunraven Estate—Case of T. Drew, *Feb. 26*, 1446.
  Mountshannon Estate, Sale Proposals for and Settlement of Claims of Evicted Tenants, *Feb. 26*, 1445.

Lupton, Mr. A. [Lincolnshire, Sleaford]
  Indian Poppy Cultivation—Proposals for reducing Area, *Feb. 20*, 827.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 401–410.
  Smallpox—Average Annual Death Rate, 1838–1853, *Feb. 14*, 406.
  Vaccination
    Efficacy of, as a Preventive of Smallpox, *Feb. 14*, 407, 408, 409.
    Exemption
      Certificates, Procedure as to granting, *Feb. 14*, 403.
      Honeywood, Mr. J. L., Sentence on, *Feb. 20*, 838.
    Kelsch, Dr., Report of, on Experiment at Lamb's Conduit Street, *Feb. 25*, 1252.
    Lymph
      Measures taken to detect Disease Germs in, *Feb. 20*, 840; *Feb. 25*, 1257.
      Source of Supply, *Feb. 14*, 404, 405.
    Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 401–410, 453.
    Syphilis as a Result of, *Feb. 14*, 407.

Lyell, Mr. C. H. [Dorset, E.]
  Army—Second Line, Terms of Service in, *Feb. 26*, 1419.

Lynch, Mr. H. F. B. [Yorks, W.R., Ripon]
  Persia, Administration of—Attitude of the British Government as to Protection of British Subjects, etc., *Feb. 18*, 545.

Lyttelton, Rt. Hon. A. [St. George's, Hanover Square]
  Africa, South—Constitution of, Ridgway Commission of Inquiry, Date of Presenting Report, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1511.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 142–151.
  New Hebrides
    Convention with France, Provisions of Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 12*, 142–145.
    Indentured Labour in, Conditions of Service—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 12*, 145–151; *Feb. 21*, 1025.
  St. Helena—Grant-in-Aid for Flax Industry, *Feb. 26*, 1480.
  Transvaal
    Chinese Labour, Repatriation
      Conditions of, Progress made, etc. *Feb. 26*, 1480–1482.
      Cost of, Estimate for, *Feb. 26*, 1480–1484.
    Native Labour Recruiting methods of Witwatersrand Association—Reason for Cabling Under-Secretary's Speech, etc., *Feb. 18*, 546; *Feb. 26*, 1426, 1427.

McCallum, Mr. J. [Paisley]
  Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory Levying of, in Scotland, Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1538–1541.
  Vaccination Exemptions—Extension of proposed Amendments of Law to Scotland, *Feb. 20*, 844.

McCrae, Mr. G. [Edinburgh, E.]
  Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory, in Scotland, Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1525–1532.
  Income Tax Collection
    Date of Serving Final Notices in London, *Feb. 21*, 1054.
    Issue of Ten-day Notices in England and Scotland, *Feb. 18*, 547.

Macdonald, Mr. J. R. [Leicester]
  Colonial Conference 1907, Calling of—proposals for Tabling Papers, *Feb. 20*, 830.
  Factory and Workshop Inspectors
    Additional Number and Duties of, *Feb. 18*, 551.
    Assistant, Duties of, *Feb. 18*, 551
      Regulations as to Attendance at Inquests, *Feb. 20*, 835.
  Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conferences, etc., *Feb. 19*, 746–751.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 746–751.

[*cont.*

Macdonald, Mr. J. R.—*cont.*
  Natal—Action by Dinizulu against Mr. Daniels, *Feb. 26*, 1426.
  Russia—Allegations as to Tortures Inflicted on Russians at Riga, *Feb. 20*, 831.

Mackarness, Mr. F. C. [Berkshire, Newbury]
  "Berlin," Wreck of—proposals for Recognition of Bravery of Rescuers, *Feb. 26*, 1450.
  Poor Law Royal Commission—Date of Presenting Report, *Feb. 18*, 555.
  Transvaal
    Chinese Labour
      Crime, Statistics and Information as to, *Feb. 18*, 542.
      Petitions, Procedure as to, *Feb. 26*, 1467–1470.
      Repatriation
        Conditions of, Progress made, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1467, 1470–1472.
        Cost of, Estimate for, *Feb. 26*, 1466.
        Number Effected—Number and Cause of Refusals, etc., *Feb. 14*, 303.
  Mines Drill, Result of Experiments with, *Feb 14*, 305.
    White Labour—Unemployment on the Rand, Cause of, and proposals for repatriating Australians, etc., *Feb. 14*, 302.

McKenna, Mr. R.—*President of the Board of Education* [Monmouth, N.]
  Associations of Schools, Accounts of, *Feb. 21*, 1006.
  Education (Special Religious Instruction) Bill, Intro., *Feb. 26*, 1453–1456.
  Grants, Period for Payment of—Inconvenience caused by Change of System, *Feb. 21*, 1042.
  Manchester Education Committee, Use of Police Stations by, as Depots for Supply of Meals to School Children, *Feb. 21*, 1041.
  Paddington—Request of St. Peter's School Manager as to Use of Headmaster's Influence with Parents, *Feb. 21*, 1040.
  Rate, Passive Resistance to Payment of—Legislative Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Feb. 21*, 1042, 1043.
  Teachers' Register, Legislative Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1259.
  Welsh Department, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1258, 1259.
    Secretary and Chief Inspector Salaries, and Conditions of appointing, *Feb. 21*, 1042.

McKillop, Mr. W. [Armagh, S.]
  Belfast—Sanitary Condition, Inquiry into—Constitution of Commission, *Feb. 21*, 1050.

McLaren, Mr. H. D. [Staffordshire, W.]
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 763–765.
  Fiscal Policy—Colonial Preference, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 763–765.

Macnamara, Dr. T. J.—*Parliamentary Secretary Local Government Board* [Camberwell, N.]
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 448–451.
  Vaccination
    Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 448–451.
    Report and Recommendations of Committee of Inquiry, *Feb. 15*, 449, 450.

MacNeill, Mr. J. G. S. [Donegal, S.]
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 603–609.
  Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 603, 604.
  Parliament
    House of Lords
      Constitution of, Changes of recent Years, *Feb. 18*, 605–608.
      Hereditary Principle, Abolition of proposed, *Feb. 18*, 605, 608.
    Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 603–609.
  Transvaal Constitution — Proposals for nominating Upper House, *Feb. 21*, 1032.
  Worcester, Borough of, New Writ for—Motion for Issue of, Time given for Allegations as to Corrupt Practices etc., *Feb. 14*, 317.

MacVeagh, Mr. J. [Down, S.]
  Agriculture Department Veterinary Inspectors, Memorial from, *Feb. 22*, 1148.
  Banbridge Labourers' Cottages Supplemental Loan, Purpose of, *Feb. 20*, 853, 854.
  Bellaghy Postal Service to Castledawson, Allocation of Contract for, *Feb. 22*, 1145.
  Cushendall Water Supply Scheme, Decision as to, *Feb. 21*, 1018.
  Great Northern (Ireland) Railway Company—Accommodation for Holders of Second Class Subscription Tickets, *Feb. 21*, 1011.

MacVeagh, Mr. J.—*cont.*

Law Courts—Appointment of Sergeant Dodd to High Court of Appeal Judgeship, *Feb. 25*, 1269, 1355.

Trade, Board of—Membership of, and Number of Meetings attended by the Archbishop of Canterbury, *Feb. 20*, 839.

McVeigh, Mr. C. [Donegal, E.]

Beers Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 19*, 718.

Macedonia

Reform Proposals—Memorial from Refugees in Bulgaria.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 26*, 1428, 1429.

Maddison, Mr. F. [Burnley]

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20*, 970–972.

Unemployed

Difficulties of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 971.

State Relief Works, Objections to Establishment of, *Feb. 20*, 972.

Madeira

Gambling Rooms, Scheme for Establishing—Attitude of British Government.
Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21*, 1033, 1034.

Magistrates

Fees on Appointment.
Qs. Mr. Rees; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 25*, 1246.

Magnus, Sir P. [London University]

South Kensington Technological Institute, Progress of Negotiations as to Establishment, etc., *Feb. 19*, 717.

Maidstone Corporation Light Railways (Extensions)

Order Presented, *Feb. 18*, 495, 519.

Maidstone Gas Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 284.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1222.

Malta

Garrison—Plain Clothes, Regulations as to Wearing.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 18*, 536.

Protestant Mission Services at Theatre Royal—Further Correspondence Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.

Roman Catholic Archbishop, Military Rank of
Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 14*, 297.

Manchester

Education Committee—Use of Police Stations by, as Depots for Supply of Meals to School Children.
Q. Mr. Thorne; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 21*, 1041.

Manchester Corporation Tramways Bill

l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Manchester Ship Canal (Bridgewater Canal) Bill

l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Manchester Ship Canal (Various Powers) Bill

l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Margate Pier and Harbour Company

Report and Statement of Accounts Presented, *Feb. 12*, 47.

Markham, Mr. A. B. [Nottinghamshire, Mansfield]

Members, Procedure in Introducing, *Feb. 13*, 159; *Feb. 14*, 316.

Marks, Mr. H. H. [Kent, Thanet]

Channel Tunnel—Consideration of Scheme by Experts, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1272.

Crown Lands Management and Direction, New Arrangements for, *Feb. 20*, 832.

Marnham, Mr. F. J. [Surrey, Chertsey]

Chertsey—Dog Licence Exemptions granted by Magistrates, Necessity for Inquiry into, *Feb. 26*, 1429, 1430.

Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 417.
2R.* *Feb. 22*, 1151.

Marriages Provisional Order Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 288.

Marshall Estate

Inspection, Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 15*, 416.

Mason, Mr. J. F. [Windsor]

Agriculture

Diseases, Lack of Trustworthy Information as to Treatment of, etc., *Feb. 14*, 375, 376.

Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britian, Necessity for bringing up-to-date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 374–379.

Agriculture, Board of, Inadequacy of Sources of Information Alleged, *Feb. 14*, 375–377.

[*cont.*

ason, Mr. J. F – *cont.*
Boycotting and Intimidation in Ireland, Statistics as to, *Feb. 20*, 854.
Irish Language, Cost of Teaching in Schools, *Feb. 19*, 719.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 374–379.

Massie, Mr. J. [Wiltshire, Cricklade]
Selangor Native Government Contribution Towards Erection of Mosque, *Feb. 14*, 289.

Masterman, Mr. C. F. G. [West Ham, N.]
Housing of the Working Classes, Legislative Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 613.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 610–614.
Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 614.
Parliamentary Relations between Lords and Commons.
  Allegations as to Partisanship of the Lords, *Feb. 18*, 612.
  Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of Lords towards, *Feb. 18*, 612.
Small Holdings, Legislative Proposals as to *Feb. 18*, 613.
Unionist Party, Social Reforms effected by, *Feb. 18*, 611.

Meat
Scotland, Provisions for Inspection in.
  Qs. Mr. Watt; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 25*, 1262.

Medway Lower Navigation Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Meehan, Mr. P. A. [Queen's County, Leix]
Army Pensions—Cases of P. McEvoy and T. Pike, *Feb. 21*, 1008.
India—Case of Mr. McGanagall at Roorkie Workshops, *Feb. 20*, 824.
Queen's County Evicted Tenants, Number of, and Progress made with Reinstatements, *Feb. 25*, 1238.

Members of Parliament
New Members, Procedure in introducing.
  Os. Mr. Markham, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 13*, 159; Mr. J. Ellis, Mr. Markham, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 14*, 315, 316.
Speech by one Member attributed by Newspaper to another, and only Part Explanation published—Question of Privilege.
  Os. Mr. Rees, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 15*, 423.

Menzies, Mr. W. [Lanarkshire, S.]
Post Office—Christmas and New Year's Days, Holiday Arrangements for in England and Scotland, *Feb. 19*, 715.

Merchandise Marks Bill.
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 421.

Merchant Shipping
For Particular Vessels, *see their Names.*
Wages and Effects of Deceased Seamen—Account Presented, *Feb. 13*, 155; *Feb. 14*, 275.

Mersey Docks and Harbour Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 284.

Merthyr Tydfil Stipendiary Justice Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
  2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Metropolitan Railway (Pension Fund) Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Metropolitan Water Board (Charges, &c.) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 284.

Metropolitan Water Board (Various Powers) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 284.
  2R.* *Feb. 20*, 813.

Meysey-Thompson, Mr. E. C. [Staffordshire, Handsworth]
Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward state of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing Up-to-Date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 395.
Irish Chief Secretary's Office—Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary during Autumn Session, *Feb. 21*, 1105-1107.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 395; *Feb. 18*, 614, 618; *Feb. 19*, 751–757.
Parliament
  House of Commons.
    Dining-Room, New, Expenditure on, *Feb. 21*, 1083.
    Ventilation, Necessity for Improvement in, *Feb. 21*, 1083.
  Houses of—Increase in Vote for Buildings, *Feb. 21*, 1082.

Middlesborough Corporation Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
  2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Midland Railway Bill.
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Midland Railway (West Riding Lines) Abandonment Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
  Bill withdrawn, *Feb. 25*, 1217.

Midleton
Land Commission Sitting, Date of.
Q. Captain Donelan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14*, 296, 297.

Militia
Composition of, Deficiences in.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1290–1293.
Fleetwood Camp—Date of Presenting Report on Deaths from Typhoid Fever.
Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 19*, 702.
Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 20*, 819.
Infantry of the Second Line, Reorganisation as.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1293.
Reduction of Battalions, Proposals as to.
Q. Lord J. Joicey-Cecil; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 19*, 700.
Q. Lord Joicey-Cecil; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 20*, 817.
Reform Proposals—*Statement* [Mr. Haldane], *Feb. 25*, 1291–1293, 1313–1317.

Milk
Sale of
Procedure in Prosecutions for Adulteration.
Qs. Mr. Rendall, Mr. Alden; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 842.
Q. Mr. Rendall; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 20*, 843, 844.
Proposals for adopting Recommendations of Commission.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25*, 1255.

Mines
Inspectors, Method of appointing.
Qs. Mr. Summerbell; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 19*, 710, 711; *Feb. 26*, 1433, 1434.
Scotland, Foreign Labour Employed in.
Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; Mr. Byles, *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 25*, 1247.

Mines (Hours of Labour) Bill
Proposals as to.
Os. Earl of Chichester, *Feb. 12*, 14; Mr. Tomkinson, 60; Mr. K. Hardie, 105.
References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

Mitcham & Wimbledon District Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 284.

Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. W. [Lanark N.W.]
Africa, East—Portuguese Native Labour Recruitment for Transvaal Mines, Facilities for, *Feb. 20*, 830.
Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory, in Scotland—Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1541–1544.

Mitchell Thompson, Mr. W.—*cont.*
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 751–757.
Home Rule—Government Attitude and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 614, 615.
Moray Firth, Trawling in
Norwegians tried at Elgin, Sentences on, and Reason for Release of, *Feb. 18*, 557.
Representations made to Norwegian Government, *Feb. 20*, 831.
Navy
Channel Fleet, Constitution of—Date of Completion of Repairs to "Dominion" and "Commonwealth," *Feb. 26*, 1418.
Coal Consumption in British and Foreign Countries, *Feb. 26*, 1401.
Patrol Ships in Outlying Stations, Proposals as to, *Feb. 21*, 1020; *Feb. 26*, 1417.
New Hebrides Convention, Legislative Proposals for carrying into effect, *Feb. 21*, 1027.
Parliamentary Relations Between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 615, 616.
Transvaal Chinese Labour—Repatriation Statistics, *Feb. 21*, 1009; *Feb. 26*, 1427.

Molteno, Mr. P. A. [Dumfriesshire]
Colonies, Party Capital made out of, by the Mother Country, Objections to, *Feb. 19*, 765–768, 771.
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 765–771.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 765–771.

Monastic and Conventual Institutions
Laundries, *see that title.*

Mond, Mr. A. [Chester]
Unemployed, Returns of Board of Trade, Information given in, *Feb. 22*, 1145, 1146.

Money, Mr. L. G. Chiozza [Paddington N.]
Census—Number of Males over Twenty-one in United Kingdom, *Feb. 26*, 1450.
Coinage and Currency —Gold Reserve, Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 21*, 1053.
Election Expenditure, Restriction of, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1260–1262.
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 784–789.

[*cont.*

Money, Mr. L. G. Chiozza—*cont.*
Income Tax Collections—Issue of Ten-day Notices in England and Scotland, *Feb. 18*, 548.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 242–246; *Feb. 19*, 784–789.
Old-Age Pensions
  Graduated Income Tax as a Source of Revenue, *Feb. 13*, 243–245.
  Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 242–246.
  Number of Persons over Sixty-five, Cost of Granting 5s. per Week to, etc., *Feb. 13*, 244.
Paddington,—Request of St. Peter's School Manager as to use of Headmaster's Influence with Parents, *Feb. 21*, 1040.
Parliamentary Elections—Number of Men Registered as Electors, *Feb. 26*, 1450.
Royal Academy of Arts—Number of Academicians, *Feb. 25*, 1272.
Unemployed Census, Proposals for. *Feb. 25*, 1251.
Wall Paper, Imported Foreign, Alleged Restriction on Sale Price of, *Feb. 25*, 1247.

Monmouth, County of
(Northern Division) Parliamentary Election—New Writ Issued, *Feb. 12*, 48; New Member Sworn, *Feb. 20*, 856.

Montague, Mr. E. S. [Cambridgeshire, Chesterton]
Agricultural Holdings Act 1906, Postponement of Operation of—Advantage taken by certain Landlords, etc., *Feb. 18*, 563.

Montgomery, Mr. H. G. [Somerset, Bridgewater]
Italy—Proposals for Revision of Genoa Port Regulations, *Feb. 22*, 1143.

Mooney, Mr. J. J. [Newry]
Belfast, Sanitary Condition, Inquiry into—Constitution of Commission, *Feb. 21*, 1050.

Moore, Mr. W. [Armagh, N.]
Bann Drainage Scheme, Progress made with, *Feb. 20*, 854.
Land Stock, Conditions of Issuing, etc., *Feb. 19*, 721.
Land Sub-Commissionership, Conditions of Appointments to, *Feb. 25*, 1267.
Law Courts—Appointment of Sergeant Dodd to Judgeship in High Court of Appeal, *Feb. 25*, 1269, 1274, 1345, 1358.

"Moravia"
Loss of—Proposals as to Inquiry.
  Q. Mr. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25*, 1235.

Moray Firth
Trawling in, by Foreign Vessels
  "Any person," Definition of, in Regulations.
    O. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *Feb. 21*, 984; Ford Fitzmaurice, 990.
  Attitude of the Government—Question of Appeal against Decisions of High Court, etc.
    Os. Lord Ashbourne, *Feb. 21*, 997; Lord Fitzmaurice, 997; Lord Reay, 998.
    Q. Mr. Morton; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 25*, 1259.
    Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 26*, 1442, 1443.
  British-owned Vessels Registered in Norway, Allegations as to.
    Os. Lord Balfour of Burleigh. *Feb. 21*, 983, 985; Lord Fitzmaurice, 988; Lord Heneage, 993.
    Qs. Mr. J. C. Wason; *As.* Mr. T. Shaw, *Feb. 18*. 556.
    Qs. Mr. Williamson, Mr. J. C. Wason; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 18*, 558.
  Closing of British Ports to landing of Fish caught within Prohibited Area.
    Os. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *Feb. 21*, 986; Lord Fitzmaurice, 991; Lord Heneage, 997.
  Foreign Trawlers, Reason for omitting to Arrest.
    Qs. Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 18*, 524, 559, 560.
  History of the Matter.
    Os. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *Feb. 21*, 979; Lord Fitzmaurice, 987; Lord Heneage, 995.
  Measures for Protection of Fisheries, etc.
    Q. Mr. A. Williamson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 20*, 845.
  Norwegian Government, Representations made to.
    Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 20*, 831, 832.
    Qs. Mr. Morton; *As.* Sir E. Grey, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 21*, 1037, 1038.
  Norwegians tried at Elgin, Sentences on and Reason for Release of.
    Qs. Lord Balfour of Burleigh; *As.* Marquess of Ripon, *Feb. 14*, 276, 277.
    Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. Weir; *As.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 18*, 556, 557.

[*cont.*

Moray Firth—*cont.*
Trawling in—*cont.*
Prohibited Area, Extent of
Os. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *Feb. 21*, 983; Lord Fitzmaurice, 991.
Prosecutions, Procedure in—Cases tried, etc.
O. Lord Balfour of Burleigh, *Feb. 21*, 984; Lord Fitzmaurice, 988.

Morgan, Mr. G. H. [Cornwall, Truro]
Poor Law—Filial Liability for Support of Parent, Amendment of Law as to Married Daughters, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 555.

Morley, Rt. Hon. J.—*Secretary of State for India* [Montrose Burghs]
Administration
Judicial and Executive Functions, Decisions as to Separation of, *Feb. 18*, 531, 538, 539.
Aligarh Ango-Mahomedan College, Appointment of Professor of Arabic to, *Feb. 19*, 705.
Army
Indian Military Service Family Pension Fund Accounts, Regulation as to Publishing, *Feb. 14*, 296; *Feb. 18*, 531.
Poona, Cost of Married Quarters at, *Feb. 14*, 295.
Bhola District Courts, Allegations as to Irregularity in holding, *Feb. 21*, 1016.
Bombay Liquor Traffic, Regulations as to Sale of Drink to Persons under Fourteen, *Feb. 19*, 705.
Burma
Flogging as Judicial Punishment, *Feb. 19*, 704.
Gotgeik Railway Bridge, Stability of, *Feb. 21*, 1016.
Rangoon Gaol, Allegations as to Flogging of Prisoners awaiting Trial, *Feb. 19*, 703.
Darjeeling—Special Grant to St. Paul's School, *Feb. 18*, 539.
Delhi—Appointment and Duties of Mr. Addison, *Feb. 21*, 1015.
Education, Free Primary—Placing Copy of Circular Letter in Library, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 294.
Factory Labour Inquiry—Continuing during Hot Season, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 704.
Flogging as Judicial Punishment, Report on —Proposals for Tabling, *Feb. 19*, 703.
Ganges Bridge Committee, Representation of Planters of Assam and Darjeeling on, *Feb. 14*, 293.
Gold Standard Reserve—Limit of Silver Portion, *Feb. 19*, 704.

Morley, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
Lahore
Allegations as to Hooting of Europeans by Natives, *Feb. 26*, 1421, 1422.
Sentences on Proprietor and Editor of *Punjabi*, *Feb. 21*, 1023.
Legislative Councils Committee—Date of Presenting Report, *Feb. 18*, 538.
Madras High Court Vacant Judgeships, Proposals for filling, *Feb. 21*, 1023.
Madras Estates Land Bill—Effect on Position of Zemindars, *Feb. 19*, 695.
Nepaul—Circumstances of Murder of Mr. Bloomfield, *Feb. 26*, 1421.
Opium
China
Cultivation and Importation Statistics, Supply of Information as to, *Feb. 14*, 307.
Official Measures for restricting Consumption in, *Feb. 14*, 306.
Indo-Chinese Trade, Proposals for restricting, *Feb. 14*, 307; *Feb. 19*, 702; *Feb. 21*, 1015.
Malwa Opium, Price of, *Feb. 26*, 1422.
Price of Bengal Opium, *Feb. 26*, 1422, 1423.
Poppy Cultivation, Area for, *Feb. 26*, 1422.
Railway Rolling Stock, Delivery of, and Proposals for increasing, *Feb. 21*, 1016.
Roorkie Workshops—Case of Mr. McGanagall, *Feb. 20*, 824.
Tibet—Travellers and Explorers, Removal of Veto on Entry of, from India, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 295.
Vagrancy, Imprisonment for, in 1905, *Feb. 21*, 1022.
Wireless Telegraphy, Experiments in, *Feb. 18*, 537.

Morley Estate
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. V. Kennedy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1048.

Morocco
Conference at Algeciras
General Act Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40, 51.
Results of.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 4.
Railway Concessions, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21*, 1037.

Morrell, Mr. P. [Oxfordshire, Henley]
Housing of the Working Classes, Interest charged on Loans, for, *Feb. 20*, 833.
Transvaal
  Chinese Labour Importation Statistics as to, and Reason for continuing, *Feb. 14*, 300.
  Financial Condition and Gold Output (1904–6), *Feb. 14*, 301.
Women's Suffrage Disturbance outside House of Commons—Conduct of Police, etc., *Feb. 20*, 836.

Morton, Mr. A. C. [Sutherland]
Irish Chief Secretary's Office—Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary during Autumn Session, *Feb. 21*, 1108.
Crofter's Commission Estimate, Reason for Increase in, *Feb. 21*, 1130, 1131.
Inebriate Homes in Ireland, Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1108.
Law Courts—Vote for Supreme Court of Judicature, *Feb. 21*, 1120, 1123.
Moray Firth, Trawling in—Possibility of effecting Settlement, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1037, 1038; *Feb. 25*, 1259.
Parliament
  House of Commons
    Committees, Expenditure of, Increase in Estimate, for, *Feb. 21*, 1092.
    Division Lobbies, Expenditure on Alteration to, *Feb*, *21*, 1073.
    Offices, Vote for—Increase in, Explanation, and Criticism of Items, *Feb. 21*, 1092.
  Houses of—Vote for Buildings, *Feb. 21*, 1072–1074.
  Parliamentary Election Petitions, Legal Expenses in connection with, *Feb. 21*, 1120, 1123–1124.
Post Office
  Facilities in Rural Districts, Conditions of Extending, *Feb. 25*, 1258.
  Penny Post with United States, Progress of Negotiations as to, *Feb. 20*, 843.

Motors
Legislative Proposals for dealing with.
  Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25*, 1255, 1256.
Traction Engine Traffic in Scotland—Revision of Regulations, proposed.
  Q. Sir J. Jardine; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 19*, 718.

Mountshannon Estate
Sale Proposals for, and Settlement of Claims of Evicted Tenants.
  Qs. Mr. Lundon, Mr. Joyce; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1445, 1446.

Mullingar, Kells and Drogheda Railway Bill
c. 1r.* *Feb. 14*, 285.

Murphy, Mr. J. [Kerry, E.]
Education
  Inspectors, Powers of, to Interfere in Framing of Programmes of Instruction, *Feb. 15*, 415.
  National School Teachers' Pension Fund—Tabling Report proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1050.
  Night Schools, Number of, *Feb. 18*, 533.
Irish Language, Teaching in Schools, *Feb. 18*, 561.
Marshall Estate—Proposal for Inspection, *Feb. 15*, 416.
Parliamentary Debates, Irish, Date of Issue of Bound Volume of, *Feb. 18*, 527.

Myer, Mr. H. [Lambeth, N.]
Law Courts—Supreme Court of Judicature, Vote for, *Feb. 21*, 1123.
Parliamentary Elections Petitions, Legal Expenses in connection with, *Feb. 21*, 1123.

Natal
Arab Storekeepers, Trading Licences of.
  Q. Mr. Scott; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19*, 705, 706.
British Indians, Position of
    Q. Mr. C. D. Schwann; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1425, 1426.
  Franchise Rights—Operation of Municipal Corporations Act.
    Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20*, 828.
  Trading Rights of.
    Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18*, 540.
Dinizulu, Action by, against Mr. Daniels.
  Q. Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1426.
Tongaat Village—Trading Licences of Indian Storekeepers.
  Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21*, 1028.
Trading Licences, Conditions of Granting.
  Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18*, 525.
Vrededorp Stands Ordinance, Operation of—Rights of British Indian Traders, etc.
  Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21*, 1028, 1029.

National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty Bill
l. 1r.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Navigation
Accounts (1907)—Return Ordered, and (in part) Presented, *Feb. 12*, 58.

Navy
First Lord—Rt. Hon. Lord Tweedmouth.
Financial Secretary—Rt. Hon. E. Robertson.
"Albemarle" and "Commonwealth," Information as to Collision between.
  Qs. Mr. E. Wason, Mr. Lee; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 18*, 534, 535.
Appropriation Account (1905–6) Presented, *Feb. 18*, 520.
Battleships, *see also subheadings* Names of Ships.
  Nominal Roll of First-class Battleships Fully Manned and in Active Commission in Home Waters on 13th February, 1907.
    Os. Lord Lovat, *Feb. 18*, 498; Lord Tweedmouth, 498.
  Nucleus Crews
    Constitution of a Reduced Nucleus Crew.
      Os. Lord Lovat, *Feb. 18*, 498; Lord Tweedmouth, 500.
    Number of Ships Provided with, on February 13th, 1907.
      Os. Lord Lovat, *Feb. 18*, 498; Lord Tweedmouth, 499.
Canteen System Inquiry, Report of
  Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 20*, 826.
Channel Fleet
  Constitution of—Date of Completion of Repairs to "Dominion" and "Commonwealth."
    Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 26*, 1418.
  Strength of—Report from Lord Charles Beresford, etc.
    Qs. Mr. Hunt, Mr. A. S. Wilson Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 19*, 698, 699.
Coal Consumption of British and Foreign Navies.
  Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 26*, 1401.
Defence of the Empire, *see that title.*
Distribution under New Scheme, Particulars of.
  Qs. Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 21*, 1014.
Dockyards
  Chargemen, Wages of.
    Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 26*, 1401.
  Vaccination of Employees—Case of W. J. Woodcock.
    Qs. Mr. Thomasson; Mr. K. Hardie; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 20*, 825.
  Wages, Cost of Increase of.
    Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 19*, 697, 698.

Navy—*cont.*
Gunnery—Battle Practice, Result Presented, *Feb. 12*, 42, 52.
Home Fleet, Strength of and Ability to meet Sudden Attacks.
  Qs. Mr. Hunt; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 25*, 1241, 1242.
Manœuvres
  Omissions from Report and Department Responsible for Publication.
    Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 21*, 1006.
  Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 42, 52.
Mobilisation Tests at Manœuvres of June 14th, 1906.
  Os. Lord Tweedmouth, *Feb. 18*, 499, 503; Lord Lovat, 503, 504.
Officers, Retired—Admiralty Power of Preventing Indiscreet Public Expression of Opinions on Naval and Political matters.
  Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 18*, 534.
Painting and Decorating Ships by Officers out of their Private Funds, Proposals for Prohibiting.
  Q. Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 25*, 1240.
Patrol Ships in Outlying Stations, proposals for utilising Vessels as.
  Q. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 21*, 1020.
  Qs. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, Mr. A. Lee, Mr. Remnant; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 26*, 1417, 1418.
Portsmouth Barracks Disturbance—Reconsideration of Sentences, proposed.
  Q. Sir F. Channing; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 18*, 522, 523.
Portsmouth Dockyard—Lock Entrance, Expenditure on.
  Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 26*, 1418.
"Ramillies," H.M.S., Number of Men on Board on February 13th, 1907.
  Os. Lord Lovat, *Feb. 18*, 498.
Rosyth Base, Proposals as to Completion.
  Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 19*, 698.
Savings Banks—Rate of Interest on Deposits.
  Q. Sir R. Ropner; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 20*, 825, 826.
Shipbuilding — "Invincible" Class Armoured Cruisers, Allocation of Contracts for.
  Q. Mr. Bellairs; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 19*, 699.
Stokers performing Clerical Duties, Pay of.
  Q. Mr. Bramsdon; *A.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 19*, 692.
Works Acts—Account Presented, *Feb. 20*, 813.

Navy Estimates

Presented, with Explanatory Statement, *Feb. 13*, 156; *Feb. 14*, 275.

Shipbuilding, etc., Programme—Statement Presented, *Feb. 22*, 1142; *Feb. 25*, 1219.

Neath, Pontardawe and Brynamman Railway Bill

c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 285.

New Hebrides

Administration—Appointment of Separate High Commissioner, proposed.
Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19*, 707.

British Resident Commissioner, Name of.
Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20*, 829.

Convention with France, Provisions of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc.
Os. Lord Castleton, *Feb. 12*, 5; Marquess of Lansdowne, 20; Marquess of Ripon, 32; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 75, 88; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 87–89; Mr. Churchill, 133–135; Mr. Lyttelton, 142–145; Sir G. Parker, 151, 152; Sir G. Parker, *Feb. 13*, 160–163; Major Seely, 167–170; Sir C. Dilke, 170; Sir E. Grey, 173–176, 183.
Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21*, 1031, 1032.

Article 68, Information as to.
Os. Mr. A. Taylor, *Feb. 13*, 172; Sir E. Grey, 173.

Australasian Correspondence Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 51.

Legislative Proposals for carrying into effect.
Qs. Lord R. Cecil, Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21*, 1027.

Opium, Reason for not Prohibiting Supply of, to Natives.
Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21*, 1029.

Parliamentary Discussion, Opportunity for.
Qs. Mr. Staveley-Hill, Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 21*, 1052, 1053.

Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40, 51.

Proposals for Proclaiming.
Q. Mr. S. Roberts; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20*, 829.

Ratification, Procedure for.
Q. Mr. Carlile; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21*, 1038.

New Hebrides—*cont.*

Indentured Labour in, Conditions of Service—Provisions of Ordinance, etc.
Os. Marquess of Lansdowne, *Feb. 12*, 20; Marquess of Ripon, 32; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 76–78; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 89; Mr. Churchill, 136–141; Mr. Lyttelton, 145–151; Sir G. Parker, *Feb. 13*, 163–166; Major Seely, 166–170; Sir C. Dilke, 171, 172; Sir E. Grey, 176–182; Mr. W. Long, 184; Mr. Bottomley, 211–213.
Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray, Mr. Ashley; *As.* Mr. Churchill, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 21*, 1029–1031.
Qs. Major Anstruther-Gray; Sir G. Parker, Mr. Ashley; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1425.

Child Labour—Provisions of as to Indenture.
Qs. Mr. Hunt, Sir H. Vincent; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19*, 706, 707.
Q. Captain Craig; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1423.

Female Labour—Conditions of Employment of.
Qs. Sir W. Evans-Gordon, Lord Balcarres, Sir G. Parker, Mr. Ashley, Mr. Lyttelton, Mr. Staveley Hill, Mr. Walker; *As.* Mr. Churchill *Feb. 21*, 1023–1027.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21*, 1031.
Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 19*, 709, 710.

Housing Accommodation.
Qs. Mr. Ashley, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1428.

Trade Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 51.

New South Wales

Parliamentary Elections Act—Copy Presented, *Feb. 15*, 414; *Feb. 18*, 496.

Newfoundland

Fisheries — *Modus vivendi* with United States

Correspondence, Proposals as to publishing.
Qs. Mr. Lonsdale, Sir H. Vincent, Sir G. Parker; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18*, 540–542.

Date of Lapsing and Proposals for Renewing.
Q. Viscount Castlereagh; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 20*, 829.

Newquay and District Water Bill

l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Nigeria
Annual Report (Northern) Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 51.
Northern Nigeria Order in Council, 1907, Presented, *Feb. 21*, 978, 1002.

Nolan, Mr. J. [Louth, S.]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 373.
Reinstatements under Land Act, 1903, Progress made with and Proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 373.

North British Railway Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 26*, 1393.

North-East London Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 285.

North-Eastern & Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 285.

North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 286.

North Sea Fisheries Investigation
British Proposals for continuing to participate in.
Qs. Mr. Weir; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 26*, 1441.
Cost of
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 26*, 1439, 1440.
Report Presented, *Feb. 21*, 978, 1003.

North Staffordshire Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 286.

O'Brien, Mr. P. [Kilkenny]
Glasgow Post Office Junior Assistant, Inspector of Postmen, Employment of, on Special Duties, *Feb. 18*, 529.
Waterford Railway Station—Charge on Persons other than Passengers *Feb. 25*, 1250.

O'Brien Estate
Sale Negotiations, Progress made with.
Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1050.

O'Connor, Mr. John [Kildare, N.]
Imports of Meat, Butter and Flax (1891–1905) *Feb. 25*, 1227.

O'Donnell, Mr. C. J. [Newington, Walworth]
Poplar—Case of G. Watts, Cause of Death, etc., *Feb. 18*, 530.

O'Dowd, Mr. J. [Sligo, S.]
Beet, Sugar, Cultivation of, *Feb. 20*, 844.
French Revolution of 1818, Losses of British Subjects during—Claim of Irish College, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1034.
School Upkeep, Grant for purpose of, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 561.

O'Dyer Estate
Sale of—Reinstatement Claim of P. Hogan.
Q. Mr. Hogan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1049.

O'Grady, Mr. J. [Leeds, E.]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20*, 928–933.
Tuberculosis Commission, Expenditure on, *Feb. 21*, 1045.
Unemployed
Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 932.
Difficulties of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 929, 930.
Failure of the Government to Deal with the Question, Alleged, *Feb. 20*, 931.
Statistics as to, *Feb. 20*, 928, 929.
Waste Land, Reclamation of, by Means of the Unemployed, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 932, 933.

O'Kelly, Mr. J. [Roscommon, N.]
Flannery Estate—Case of J. Farrell, *Feb. 25*, 1239.

O'Malley, Mr. W. [Galway, Connemara]
Ballinakill Bay Oyster Beds—Rights of Certain Tenants, *Feb. 25*, 1236.
Potato Crop, Fears of Failure of and Proposals for Dealing with Distress, *Feb. 14*, 312.

O'Shee, Mr. J. J. [Waterford, W.]
Kings' Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 354–359.
Land Commission—Inspectors, Number of, Class of Persons Employed, etc., *Feb. 14*, 356, 357.
Reinstatements under Land Act, 1903, Progress made with, and Proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 354–359.

Ocean Accident and Guarantee Corporation Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Old Age Pensions
Budget Surplus, Allocating for Pensions proposed.
Os. Mr. Barnes, *Feb. 13*, 221; Mr. Asquith, 225, 226; Mr. Shackleton, 256, 257.
Causes of Destitution.
Os. Mr. H. Cox, *Feb. 13*, 230, 231.

[*cont.*

Old Age Pensions—*cont.*
Colonial Systems
Os. Mr. Barnes, *Feb. 13*, 218.
Difficulty of Propounding a Workable System
Os. Mr. H. Cox, *Feb. 13*, 227–233.
Friendly Societies, Securing Co-operation of, proposed.
Os. Sir H. Vincent, *Feb. 13*, 236; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 262.
German System, Working of.
Os. Sir H. Vincent, *Feb. 13*, 235, 236.
Graduated Income Tax as a Source of Revenue.
Os. Mr. C. Money, *Feb. 13*, 243–245.
Manufactured Imports, Ten per cent. Tax on, proposed.
Os. Sir H. Vincent, *Feb. 13*, 236–238; Mr. Stuart, 247; Mr. Burns, 258.
Necessity for Dealing with the Question.
Os. Mr. Barnes, *Feb. 13*, 216–221; Mr. Hodge, 221, 222; Mr. Asquith, 222–227; Mr. V. Cavendish, 227; Sir H. Vincent, 233–238; Mr. J. W. Wilson, 238–240; Mr. Brace, 240–242; Mr. C. Money, 242–246; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 246; Mr. Stuart, 247–251; Mr. Steadman, 251–254; Mr. Everett, 254, 255; Mr. Shackleton, 255–257; Mr. Burns, 257; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 261–265; Mr. K. Hardie, 265–268; Mr. Seddon, *Feb. 18*, 628, 629.
Number of Persons over Sixty-five, Cost of Granting 5s. per Week to, etc.
Os. Mr. Barnes, *Feb. 13*, 217, 218, 220; Mr. Asquith, 223; Mr. H. Cox, 227; Mr. C. Money, 244; Mr. Burns, 259; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 263.
Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 12*, 106, 107, Mr. Vivian, 111, 112; Mr. Summerbell, 124; Mr. Bottomley, *Feb. 13*, 213.
Statistical Information, Lack of, Proposals for Facilitating Accurate Returns.
Os. Mr. Burns, *Feb. 13*, 259, 260.
Unionist Party Attitude towards
Os. Mr. Fenwick, *Feb. 18*, 633, 634.

Old Age Pensions Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 418.

Opium
China
Cultivation and Importation Statistics, Supply of Information as to.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14*, 307.
Official Measures for Restricting Consumption in, etc.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14*, 306.

Opium—*cont.*
Cure for Opium Habit, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19*, 708.
Indian
Price per Seer paid to Cultivators
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 20*, 827.
Revenue (1906–7)
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 20*, 826, 827.
Indo-Chinese Trade
Proposals for Regulating
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 19*, 702.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 21*, 1015.
Reason for Decline in.
Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14*, 307.
Malwa Opium
Duty on.
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Hobhouse, *Feb. 20*, 826.
Price of
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 26*, 1422.
Price of Bengal Opium.
Q. Sir H. Cotton; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 26*, 1422, 1423.
Straits Settlements, etc.
Amount consumed in, and Revenue derived from—Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40, 51.
Anti-opium Movement in, Information as to.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 19*, 708.

Ordnance Survey
Maps, Irish, Estimate for, and Amount spent on.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 25*, 1234.
Wages, Rate of, in Ireland.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Sir E. Strachey, *Feb. 25*, 1233.

Outlawries Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 12*, 50.

Oxford and District Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 26*, 1393.

Paddington
St. Peter's School Manager—Allegations as to Request to Head Master to use Influence with Parents of Children for Political Purposes.
Q. Mr. C. Money; *A.* Mr. McKenna, *Feb. 21*, 1040, 1041.

Parker, Sir G. [Gravesend]

Africa, East—Portuguese Native Labour Recruitment for Transvaal Mines—Result of Negotiations, *Feb. 14*, 305; *Feb. 20*, 829.

Colonial Conference, 1907—Discussion of High Commissionership of Western Pacific, *Feb. 19*, 707.

Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contributions towards—Bringing Question before Colonial Conference, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 490–492.

Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 20*, 884–892.

India, Allegations as to Unrest in, *Feb. 26*, 1422.

King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 151, 152; *Feb. 13*, 160–166; *Feb. 15*, 490–492; *Feb. 20*, 884–892.

New Hebrides

Convention with France, Provisions of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 12*, 151, 152; *Feb. 13*, 160–163.

Indentured Labour in—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 13*, 163–166; *Feb. 26*, 1425.

Female Labour, Regulations as to, *Feb. 21*, 1025.

Housing Accommodation, *Feb. 26*, 1428.

Newfoundland Fisheries—*modus vivendi* with United States—Correspondence, Proposals as to publishing, *Feb. 18*, 541.

Transvaal Chinese Labourers—Repatriation, Conditions of, Progress made, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1488–1491.

Parks and Gardens

See also Names of Parks and Gardens.

Keepers, Wages and Pensions of.
O. Mr. Ashley, *Feb. 21*, 1063.

Roads in, Objections to limiting Use of to Motors and Carriages.
Os. Mr. Shackleton, *Feb. 21*, 1062.

Vote for, *Feb. 21*, 1057.

Wages of Labourers and Gangers, etc., Reasons for Increase in.
Os. Mr. Dillon, *Feb. 21*, 1058, 1059; Mr. Harcourt, 1058, 1560; 1061, 1062, 1064, 1065; Mr. Courthope, 1059, 1066; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 1062, 1066; Mr. W. Rutherford, 1063; Sir F. Banbury, 1063, 1064, 1066.

Parliament

House of Commons

Bar in the Chamber, Removal of, proposed.
Os. Mr. J. Ward, *Feb. 21*, 1085; Mr. Harcourt, 1087.

Committees, *see that title.*

Dining-room, new

Criticisms on.
Os. Mr. Courthope, *Feb. 21*, 1086; Mr. Harcourt, 1087.

Expenditure on.
Os. Mr. Harcourt, *Feb. 21*, 1079, 1088; Sir F. Banbury, 1081; Mr. Meysey-Thompson, 1083; Mr. Weir, 1090.

Division Lobbies

Doors, Closing of, proposed.
Os. Sir F. Banbury, *Feb. 21*, 1081; Mr. Harcourt, 1088.

Expenditure on Alterations to.
Os. Mr. Morton, *Feb. 21*, 1073; Mr. Harcourt, 1079.

Divisions, *see under* Parliamentary Procedure.

Expenditure of Committees, Increase in Estimate for.
Os. Mr. Morton, *Feb. 21*, 1092; Sir F. Banbury, 1094; Mr. Mr. V. Cavendish, 1095, 1096; Mr. C. Hay, 1097; Mr. Runciman, 1099.

Journal—Order as to Printing and Indexing, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 50.

Kitchen and Refreshment Committee appointed, *Feb. 20*, 976.

Lavatories, Cold Water Supply in.
Os. Mr. Courthope, *Feb. 21*, 1086.

Lifts

Attendants, Rate of Pay of, Provision as to Overtime, etc.
Os. Mr. Seddon, *Feb. 21*, 1082.

Increasing Number of.
Os. Mr. J. Ward, *Feb. 21*, 1085; Mr. Harcourt, 1087.

Lighting of, Defects in.
Os. Mr. Rees, *Feb. 21*, 1084; Mr. Harcourt, 1087.

Lockers, Provision of.
Os. Mr. Harcourt, *Feb. 21*, 1088.

Offices—Vote for, *Feb. 21*, 1091.

Increase in, Explanation and Criticism of Items.
Os. Mr. Morton, *Feb. 21*, 1092; Mr. S. Wortley, 1093; Sir F. Banbury, 1093, 1094; Mr. Runciman, 1098.

[*cont.*

Parliament—*cont.*
House of Commons—*cont.*
Orders of the Day, etc., Facilitating Distribution of.
Os. Mr. W. T. Wilson, *Feb. 21*, 1098.

Room for Interviewing Constituents and Transacting Business, Necessity for Provision of.
Os. Mr. W. Rutherford, *Feb. 21*, 1072; Col. Lockwood, 1076.

Secretaries' Room, Inadequate Accommodation in.
Os. Mr. Ashley, *Feb. 21*, 1067; Mr. Harcourt, 1069.

Shorthand Writers

Conditions of Employment, Rate of Pay, etc.
Os. Mr. C. Hay, *Feb. 21*, 1097, 1098.

Increase in Estimate for.
Os. Sir F. Banbury, *Feb. 21*, 1094; Mr. Runciman, 1100.

Printing of Reports, etc., Delay Involved in Sending to Reading.
Os. Mr. Dalziel, Sir F. Banbury, Mr. T. L. Corbett, Mr. Runciman, Mr. C. Hay, *Feb. 21*, 1101, 1102.

Ventilation

Expenditure on, Explanation of Increase in Estimate.
Os. Mr. W. Rutherford, *Feb. 21*, 1070, 1071; Mr. Harcourt, 1079.

Necessity for Improvement in.
Os. Mr. Dillon, *Feb. 21*, 1068; Mr. Harcourt, 1069, 1070, 1087, 1088; Col. Lockwood, 1075; Sir F. Banbury, 1080; Mr. Meysey-Thompson, 1083; Mr. J. A. Bright, 1083; Mr. H. Beach, 1088.

Vote Office, Improvement in Ventilation of.
Os. Mr. Weir, *Feb. 21*, 1089.

House of Lords

Constitution of, Changes in, of Recent Years.
Os. Mr. S. MacNeill, *Feb. 18*, 605–608; Mr. Paul, 619, 620.

Hereditary Principle, Abolition of, proposed.
Os. Mr. S. MacNeill, *Feb. 18*, 605, 608.

Parliament—*cont.*
House of Lords—*cont.*
Lords Temporal—List Delivered, *Feb. 12*, 4.

Roll Presented, *Feb. 18*, 495.

Sat First—Viscount Hampden, After the Death of his Father, *Feb. 12*, 4.

Sittings to be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays—*Motion* [Marquess of Ripon], *Feb. 18*, 498.
Os. Marquess of Ripon, *Feb. 18*, 497; Marquess of Lansdowne, 498.

Took the Oath—Viscount Templeton, *Feb. 25*, 1217.

Houses of

Approaches to—Sessional Order to Police, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 39, 49.

Buildings—Vote for, *Feb. 21*, 1067.

Discussion of, Opportunity for.
Os. Mr. W. Redmond, *Feb. 21*, 1076, 1077; Mr. L. Hardy, 1077; Mr. J. Ward, 1084, 1085.

Increase in, Explanation of Items, etc.
Os. Mr. W. Rutherford *Feb. 21*, 1070–1072; Mr. Morton, 1072–1074; Mr. V. Cavendish, 1074; Mr. Harcourt, 1078, 1079; Mr. Meysey - Thompson, 1082.

Opening of, Inconvenience of Present Arrangements for—use of Westminster Hall, proposed.
Q. Mr. H. Cox; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 18*, 563.

Papers, Distribution of

Date of Carrying out Recommendations of Committee.
Os. Mr. V. Cavendish, *Feb. 21*, 1095; Mr. Runciman, 1099.

Wages of Persons Employed, Information as to.
Os. Mr. C. Hay, *Feb. 21*, 1096; Mr. Runciman, 1100.

Relations between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Readjustment of.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 6, 7; Marquess of Lansdowne, 23–27; Marquess of Ripon, 34–37; Mr. Rainy, 61; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 65–68; Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, 80–85,

[*cont.*

Parliament—*cont.*

- Relations between Lords and Commons—*cont.*
  - Sir E. Sassoon, 120; Mr. W. Long, *Feb. 13*, 186; Mr. Bottomley, 213, 214; Earl Percy, *Feb. 18*, 580-586; Mr. Asquith, 595, 597; Mr. Carlile, 599, 600; Mr. S. MacNeill, 603-609; Mr. S. Roberts, 609, 610; Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, 615, 616; Mr. Paul, 617, 618; Mr. Courthope, 618; Sir F. Banbury, 624-627; Mr. Fenwick, 634-636; Mr. A. Henderson, 641-643; Mr. F. E. Smith, 644-649; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 649-655; Mr. Birrell, 662-664.
  - Dissolution, Right of the House of Lords to dictate as to.
    - *Os.* Mr. Adkins, *Feb. 18*, 623; ir F. Banbury, 624.
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards.
    - *Os.* Mr. Carlile, *Feb. 18*, 599; Mr. S. Roberts, 610; Mr. Masterman, 612; Mr. Courthope, 621; Mr. Adkins, 622; Sir F. Banbury, 623, 624; Mr. F. E. Smith. 646; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 651-653; Mr. Birrell, 662.
  - Financial Measures, Right of the Lords to Interfere with.
    - *Os.* Mr. Paul, *Feb. 18*, 617, 618; Mr. Adkins, 622.
  - Partisanship of the Lords, Allegations as to.
    - *Os.* Earl Percy, *Feb. 18*, 582-584; Mr. Asquith, 595; Mr. Masterman, 612; Mr. Birrell, 663.
  - Precedents for Rejection of First Class Measures by the Lords in First Session of a New Parliament.
    - *Os.* Mr. Adkins, *Feb. 18*, 622, 624; Sir F. Banbury, 624.
  - References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

Parliamentary Debates

- Bound Volumes and Index to Session, Date of Issue of.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. Ellis; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 18*, 527.
- Irish Debates, Date of Issue of Bound Volumes of.
  - *Q.* Mr. Murphy; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 18*, 527.
- Reports of Speeches.
  - *Os.* Mr. C. Hay, *Feb. 21*, 1096, 1097.

Parliamentary Elections

- Bribery, etc.—Resolution Presented, *Feb. 12*, 49.
- Constituencies, Electors and Inhabited Houses in—Return Ordered, *Feb. 13*, 157; Presented, *Feb. 18*, 521.
- Election for Two or More Places, Order as to Presented, *Feb. 12*, 48.
- New Members, Introduction of—Procedure as to.
  - *Os.* Mr. Markham, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 13*, 159.
- New Members Sworn
  - Harvey, W. E., County of Derby (North-Eastern Division) *Feb. 14*, 316.
  - McKenna, Rt. Hon. R., for Monmouth (Northern Division), *Feb. 20*, 856.
  - Pullar, Sir R., for Perth, *Feb. 18*, 566.
  - Waring, Mr. W., for County of Banff, *Feb. 20*, 856.
- New Writs Issued
  - Aberdeen (South), *Feb. 13*, 158.
  - Banffshire, *Feb. 12*, 48.
  - Derbyshire (North-East), *Feb. 12*, 47.
  - Lincoln, (North Lindsey or Brigg) *Feb. 12*, 48.
  - Monmouth (Northern Division), *Feb. 12*, 48.
  - Perth, City of, *Feb. 12*, 48.
  - Tyrone, (North) *Feb. 22*, 1141.
- Number of Men Registered as Electors.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Money; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Feb. 26*, 1450.
- Peers, Voting Rights of—Resolutions Presented, *Feb. 12*, 48.
- Petitions
  - Legal Expenses in Connection with, Information as to.
    - *Os.* Mr. C. Hay, *Feb. 21*, 1119, 1124; Mr. Morton, 1120, 1123, 1124; Sir J. Walton, 1120-1122; Sir F. Banbury, 1121-1123, 1124; Mr. Myer, 1123; Col. Lockwood, 1123; Mr. Runciman, 1123, 1124; Mr. T. L. Corbett, 1125.
  - Return Ordered, *Feb. 26*, 1400.
- Worcester, Borough of, *see that title.*

Parliamentary Procedure

- Allocation of Time so as to Obviate Application of Closure, proposed.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ellis; *A.* Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Feb. 26*, 1450.
- Divisions, Improvements Effected in Method of Taking.
  - *Os.* Mr. Dillon, *Feb. 21*, 1067, 1068.
- Grand Committee to deal with Scotch Measures, Proposals as to.
  - *Os.* Mr. Crombie, *Feb. 12*, 121, 122.

[*cont.*

Parliamentary Procedure—*cont.*
  Members of Parliament, *see that title.*
  Reform Proposals.
    Os. Sir H. Campbell-Bannerman, *Feb. 12*, 89; Mr. K. Hardie, 104.
  Votes and Proceedings—Order as to Printing, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 49.
  Witnesses, Tampering with Evidence of, Resolutions Presented, *Feb. 12*, 49.

Passengers
  Return as to Arrivals from and Departures for Places out of Europe—Presented, *Feb. 13*, 155; *Feb. 19*, 673, 674.

Patent Laws
  Reform of—Legislative Proposals.
    Os. Earl of Chichester, *Feb. 12*, 15; Mr. A. J. Balfour, 73, 74.
    References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

Paul, Mr. H. W. [Northampton]
  Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 621
  Parliament
    House of Lords—Constitution of, Changes in Recent Years, *Feb. 18*, 619, 620.
    Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Readjustment, of, *Feb. 18*, 617, 618.
      Financial Measures, Right of the Lords to Interfere with, *Feb 18*, 617, 618.

Pauperism
  See under Poor Law.

Pease, Mr. H. P. [Darlington]
  Food and Drink, Revenue derived from Taxes on, *Feb. 18*, 549.
  Lunatics, Poor Law Officers' Charges for conveying to Asylums (1896–1906), *Feb. 20*, 821.
  Motors—Legislative Proposals for dealing with, *Feb. 25*, 1255.
  Navy—Portsmouth Lock Entrance, Expenditure on, *Feb. 26*, 1418.
  Poor Law
    Administration, Expenditure on (1834–1906), *Feb. 21*, 1010; *Feb. 22*, 1144; *Feb. 26*, 1436.
    Paupers—Total Number on 1st January, 1907, *Feb. 20*, 819.
    Reform, Resolutions and Petitions in Favour of, *Feb. 26*, 1404.
  Teachers' Register, Legislative Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1259.

Pedlars Acts Amendment Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1452.

Penal Servitude Acts
  Conditional Licences granted, *Feb. 12*, 45 55; *Feb. 18*, 497, 521.

Penrith Urban District Council Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 286.
    2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Percy, Earl [Kensington, S.]
  Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 577–580.
  Home Rule, Government Attitude and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 577, 578, 579.
  Housing of the Working Classes—Legislative Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 575, 576.
  India—Legislative Councils Committee—Date of presenting Report, *Feb. 18*, 538.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 571–586.
  Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 572–577.
  Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Readjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 580–586.
    Partisanship of the Lords, Allegations as to, *Feb. 18*, 582–584.
  Small Holdings—Legislative Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 575, 576.
  Turkey—Reforms in European Vilayets, *Feb. 21*, 1037.
  Unemployed, Failure of the Government to deal with the Question, *Feb. 18*, 573, 574.

Persia
  Administration of—Attitude of the British Government as to Protection of British Subjects, etc.
    Q. Mr. Lynch; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 18*, 545.
  Enterprises of British and Foreign Subjects, Attitude of new Parliament towards.
    Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 19*, 710.

Persian Gulf
  Trade done by Hamburg-American Steamship Company in 1906.
    Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 14*, 293.

Perth
  New Writ issued, *Feb. 12*, 48; New Member sworn, *Feb. 18*, 566.
  Prison—Return as to Prisoners transferred from Barlinnie Presented, *Feb. 13* 156.

Pharmacy Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 19*, 722.

Philipps, Mr. O. C. [Pembroke and Haverfordwest]
Jamaica, Earthquake—Grant towards Relief of Distress, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 543.

Phosphorus Poisoning
Death from, in the Match Trade—Details of Case.
Q. Sir C. Dilke; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 26*, 1414.

Piccadilly
Re-paving, Reason for Delay in.
Q. Sir F. Dixon-Hartland; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 821.

Pickersgill, Mr. E. H. [Bethnal Green, S.W.]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 452; *Feb. 20*, 946–948.
Poor Pensioners Defence Act, Conditions of granting Legal Aid under, *Feb. 18*, 552.
Post Office Mail Cart Drivers—Wages and Conditions of Labour, *Feb. 20*, 843.
Unemployed
Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 947.
Emigration Work of the Central London Body, *Feb. 20*, 946.
Time allowed to elapse between Applications and giving of Employment by Boards, *Feb. 20*, 947.
Vaccination—Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 452.

Pirie, Mr. D. V. [Aberdeen, N.]
Ecclesiastical Assessments, Compulsory Levying of in Scotland—Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1537.

Plymouth and North Devon Direct Railway Abandonment Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 286.
2R.* *Feb. 26*, 1398.

Poisons and Pharmacy Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 22*, 1216.

Police
Day of Rest, Weekly, Increase of Staff necessitated by.
Q. Mr. Robinson; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 14*, 307, 308.
Grant for Pay and Clothing—Comparison between England and Scotland.
Q. Major Anstruther-Gray; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 18*, 558.
Metropolitan Commission, Opportunity for Discussion, Date of Publication of Report, etc.
Os. Mr. Ashley, *Feb. 26*, 1514; Lord R. Cecil, 1521.

Police Superannuation (Scotland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 422.

Political Pensions Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 421.

Polling Districts
[*For* particular places *see their names.*]
Orders altering, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 55.

Pontypridd Urban District Council Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Poor Law
Administration, Cost of.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 26*, 1436.
Annual Amount spent in Relief.
Os. Sir H. Vincent, *Feb. 13*, 234, 235; Mr. Steadman, 253.
Children—Boarding-out Order, Date of Issue of.
Q. Mr. C. Grant; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 22*, 1144.
Commission, Irish, Report of.
O. Mr. J. Redmond, *Feb. 12*, 97, 98.
Expenditure on Relief in 1835 and 1906.
Qs. Mr. P. Pease; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 21*, 1010; *Feb. 22*, 1144.
Filial Liability for Support of Parents—Amendment of Law as to Married Daughters, proposed.
Q. Mr. H. Morgan; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 18*, 555.
Lunatics, *see under* Lunacy.
Paupers
Number relieved in England and Wales—Statement Ordered, *Feb. 15*, 413; Presented, *Feb. 18*, 521.
Total Number, on 1st January, 1907.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 819.
Reform—Resolutions and Petitions in Favour of.
Q. Mr. P. Pease; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 26*, 1404, 1405.
Relieving Officers, Qualifications required of.
Qs. Mr. Halpin, Mr. W. Redmond; *As.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1446, 1447.
Royal Commission—Date of Presenting Report.
Q. Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 18*, 555.
Scotland—Reason for Dismissal of Dr. G. Duncan.
Q. Mr. J. C. Wason; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 26*, 1443.
Step-father, Liability of, for Maintenance of Step-children—Amendment of Law, proposed.
Q. Mr. Jackson; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 820.

Poor Prisoners Defence Act
Conditions of Granting Legal Aid under.
Q. Mr. Pickersgill ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18*, 552, 553.
Qs. Mr. Rendall, Lord R. Cecil ; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 20*, 834, 835.

Poplar
Watts, G., Case of—Cause of Death, etc.
Q. Mr. C. J. O'Donnell ; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18*, 530.

Port Talbot Railway and Docks Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 286.

Portishead District Water Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Portobello and Musselburgh Tramways (Port Seton Deviation) Order Confirmation Bill
c. 1R.* and 2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.
Con. *Feb. 21*, 1001.
3R.* *Feb. 25*, 1223.
l. 1R.* 2R.* and *Rep.* *Feb. 26*, 1394.

Portsmouth, Earl of—*Under-Secretary of State for War*
Defence of the Empire from Invasion
Navy as a Guarantee against, *Feb. 18*, 509.
Number of Men and Ships necessary to effect a Successful Action, *Feb. 18*, 510.
Possibility of, Measure taken to deal with, *Feb. 18*, 510–512.

Portsmouth Dockyard
See under Navy.

Portsmouth Naval Barracks
See under Navy.

Post Office
Postmaster-General—Rt. Hon. S. Buxton.
(*See also Names of Places.*)
Annual Leave, Regulations as to—Application of Order in Council of 15th August, 1890, proposed.
Q. Sir G. Kekewich ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 21*, 1004.
Christmas and New Year's Days, Holiday Arrangements for in England and Scotland
Q. Mr. Menzies ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 19*, 715.
Christmas Day, Holiday for Local Postmasters on, proposed.
Q. Mr. Hart-Davies ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 25*, 1235.
Inland Post Amendment No. 9 Warrant, 1907, Presented, *Feb. 14*, 289 ; *Feb. 18*, 496.

Post Office—*cont.*
Licensed Premises, Number of—Return proposed.
Q. Mr. L. Jones ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 21*, 1040.
Mail Cart Drivers, Rural
Hours of Labour of
Q. Mr. Summerbell ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 19*, 714, 715.
Wages and Conditions of Labour
Qs. Mr. Pickersgill ; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 20*, 843.
Mail Service—American Route
Effect of proposed Changes in.
Q. Capt. Donelan ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 14*, 314, 315.
Sorting Arrangements at Sea and in Train
Qs. Capt. Donelan ; *As.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 26*, 1449.
Penny Post with United States, Progress of Negotiations as to.
Q. Mr. Morton ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 20*, 843.
Postal Orders
Foreign and Colonial Amendment Regulations, Presented, *Feb. 14*, 289 ; *Feb. 18*, 496.
Statistics as to Issue and Payment in 1905–6.
Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 26*, 1405.
Postmasterships, Appointments to in Great Britain and Ireland.
Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 26*, 1406.
Postmen, Auxiliary, Wages of—Case of A. Wilson.
Q. Mr. Summerbell ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 14*, 309.
Registration, Scale of Charges for.
Q. Mr. Hodge ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 21*, 1040.
Rural Districts, Conditions of Extending Facilities in.
Q. Mr. Morton ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 25*, 1258.
Statutory Rules and Orders Presented, *Feb. 18*, 496.

Post Office Saving Banks
Deposits and Withdrawals in Ireland.
Q. Mr. Field ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 26*, 1405.
Hours of Business, Extension of, proposed.
Q. Mr. Wiles ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 19*, 693.

Post Office Sites Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 316.

Powell, Sir F. S. [Wigan]
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22*, 1166–1169.

Power, Mr. P. J. [Waterford, E.]
Waterford Railway Station—Charge on Persons other than Passengers, *Feb. 25*, 1249.

President of the Board of Agriculture—*Rt. Hon. Earl of Carrington.*

President of the Board of Education—*Rt. Hon. R. McKenna.*

President of the Board of Trade—*Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.*

President of the Local Government Board—*Rt. Hon. J. Burns.*

Price, Mr. C. E. [Edinburgh, Central]
Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 13*, 210.
Income-Tax Collection—Issue of Ten-day Notices in England and Scotland, *Feb. 18*, 548.
Industrial Condition of Ireland, *Feb. 13*, 210.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 209–211.

Prisons
(*See also Names of Places.*)
Scotland—Reason for Prolongation of Service of Chairman of Commissioners.
Q. Mr. Watt; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 18*, 559.
Warders, Hours of Duty of
Q. Mr. Sheehy; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 18*, 533.

Prisons (Ireland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1452.

Private Legislation Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1899
Report on Certain Bills Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1220, 1224.

Probation of First Offenders Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 421.

Provident Societies
Registration Fee, New Regulations as to.
Qs. Lord R. Cecil; *As.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 18*, 549.

Public Accounts Committee
Nomination of, *Feb. 19*, 812.

Public Health Acts
Printing of, proposed.
Q. Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25*, 1254.

Public Health Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 26*, 1452.

Public Health (Regulations as to Food) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 13*, 158.

Public Offices Site (Dublin) Act, 1903
Account Presented, *Feb. 19*, 690.

Queen's County
Evicted Tenants, Numbers of, and Progress made with Reinstatements.
Q. Mr. Meehan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 25*, 1238.

Questions
Irrelevant, *Feb. 19*, 698, 699; *Feb. 20*, 839; *Feb. 21*, 1038, 1039; *Feb. 25*, 1242; *Feb. 26*, 1432.
Matter of Opinion, Question on, not permissible, *Feb. 21*, 1030.

Radford, Mr. G. H. [Islington, E.]
Army—Transfer of Officers of Disbanded Regiments, Loss of Seniority involved by, *Feb. 18*, 535.
Estate Duties—Settlement Estate Duty in case of Persons dying between 31st July, 1894 and 1898, Repayment of, *Feb. 18*, 546.

Railways
Accidents and Casualties reported to Board of Trade—Return, etc., Presented, *Feb. 12*, 43, 53.
Automatic Couplings, Experiments with—Date of presenting Report.
Qs. Mr. Jowett; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 26*, 1438.
Hours of Labour of Employees
Form of Returns and Information given in.
Q. Sir F. Channing; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 22*, 1146, 1147.
Measures taken to prevent Excessive Hours in certain Branches.
Q. Mr. Bell; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 15*, 414, 415.
Return Presented, *Feb. 12*, 43, 53.
Ireland—Great Northern Company—Accommodation for Holders of Second-class Subscription Tickets.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 21*, 1011, 1012.
Midland Company—Hours of Labour of Engine-drivers and Firemen.
Qs. Mr. Hudson; *As.* Mr. Kearley, *Feb. 21*, 1044.
Rates—Agreement as to Equalisation, Terms of.
Q. Mr. Hooper; *A.* Mr. Kearley *Feb. 21*, 1043.
Underground, Risks of Fire in—Damage done on Baker St. and Waterloo Railway, etc.
Q. Mr. T. Davies; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25*, 1248.

Railways Contracts Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 417

Rainy, Mr. A. R. [Kilmarnock Burghs]
  Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 61, 62.
  Afghanistan, Amir of, Visit of, to India, *Feb. 12*, 61.
  Jamaica—Earthquake in Kingston, *Feb. 12*, 61.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 60–62.
  Land Tenure Scotland, Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 61.
  Parliament—Differences between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 12*, 61.
  Women—Eligibility for serving on Local Bodies, Legislative Proposals, *12*, 62.

Ramsgate Harbour
  Accounts (1905–6) Presented, *Feb. 13*, 155; *Feb. 14*, 276.

Raphael, Mr. H. H. [Derbyshire, S.]
  Clubs selling Alcoholic Liquors, Ownership and Registration of, *Feb. 18*, 550.
  Derby Union Workhouse—Vaccination Fee of Medical Officer, *Feb. 20*, 841.

Rea, Mr. R. [Gloucester]
  Colonies—Preferential Tariffs granted by, to British Goods, *Feb. 15*, 480–482.
  Defence of the Empire—Colonial Contributions towards—Bringing Question before Colonial Conference, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 476–483.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 476–483.

Reay, Lord
  Moray Firth, Trawling in, by Foreign Vessels, *Feb. 21*, 998.

Records, Public
  Documents of not sufficient Value to justify Preservation—Schedule Presented, *Feb. 12*, 47, 57; *Feb. 18*, 496, 522.

Redmond, Mr. J. E. [Waterford]
  Administrative Boards, Number and Work of, *Feb. 12*, 92–95.
  Administrative Changes—Nationalist Party Attitude, *Feb. 12*, 89, 90.
    Criticisms on Past and Present Administrations, *Feb. 12*, 90–98.
  Education, Condition of, *Feb. 12*, 95, 96.
  Evictions—Reinstatements under Land Act, 1903, Progress made with and Proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 371.
  Home Rule—Nationalist Party Attitude, *Feb. 12*, 90, 99–104.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 89–104; *Feb. 14*, 371.
  Poor Law Commission, Irish—Report of, *Feb. 12*, 97, 98.

Redmond, Mr. W. H. K. [Clare, E.]
  Australia—Refusal of Admission to British Hatters, *Feb. 15*, 485.
  Ballaghaline Pier, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1266.
  Clare, Land Sales effected in, *Feb. 18*, 561.
  Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contributions towards—Bringing Question before Colonial Conference, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 483–487.
  Evictions—Reinstatements under Land Act 1903, Progress made with and Proposals for Expediting Proceedings, etc., *Feb. 14*, 362–364.
  Irish Tobacco Bill, Facilities for Passage of, *Feb. 25*, 1273, 1274.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 362–364; *Feb. 15*, 483–487.
  Kinvara Harbour Works, Proposals as to, *Feb. 25*, 1269.
  Labourers (Ireland) Acts—Urban Districts, Extension to, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1046.
  Land Purchase, Transactions, Information as to Proposals for Expediting Procedure, *Feb. 21*, 1046, 1047.
  Parliament, Houses of—Vote for, Opportunity for Discussion of, *Feb. 21*, 1076.
  Poor Law Relieving Officers, Qualifications required of, *Feb. 26*, 1446.

Reenard
  Improvements, Proposals as to.
    Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 14*, 313.
  Pier, Proposals as to.
    Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20*, 852, 853.

Rees, Mr. J. D. [Montgomery Boroughs]
  Afghanistan—Visit of Ameer to India, *Feb. 12*, 215.
  Africa, East
    Chinde—Decision as to British Concession, *Feb. 26*, 1423, 1424.
    Indian Penal Code, Substitution o English Law for, proposed, *Feb. 20*, 830.
  Africa, German South West—Military Operations, Use of Wireless Telegraphy in—Reports furnished to War Office, *Feb. 18*, 539.
  Baghdad Railway, Internationalisation of—Position of Great Britain, *Feb. 19*, 708, 709.
  Canada, Sikhs Destitute in—Allegations as to and Provision for Repatriation, etc., *Feb. 18*, 539.
  County Council Control of Standing Joint Committee Expenditure—Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 19*, 712.

[*cont.*

Rees, Mr. J. D.—*cont.*
- Emigration, Encouragement of, by Local Authorities—Legislation to extend Powers proposed, *Feb. 18*, 554.
- House of Commons—Lighting of, Defects in, *Feb. 21*, 1084.
- India
  - Education, Fee Primary—Placing Copy of Circular Letter in Library, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 294.
  - Factory Labour Inquiry, Continuing during Hot Season, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 704.
  - Ganges Bridge Committee, Representation of Planters of Assam and Darjeeling on, *Feb. 14*, 293.
  - Gold Standard Reserve—Limit of Silver Portion, *Feb. 19*, 704.
  - Judicial and Executive Functions, Proposals for Separation of, *Feb. 25*, 1243.
  - Madras Estates Land Bill—Effect on Position of Zemindars, *Feb. 19*, 695.
  - Wireless Telegraphy—Experiments in, *Feb. 18*, 537.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 215.
- Law Courts—Judicial Etiquette as to Defence of Judicial Conduct in a Newspaper, *Feb. 14*, 292.
- Magistrates—Fees on Appointemnt, *Feb. 25*, 1246.
- Natal
  - British Indians, Franchise Rights of, *Feb. 20*, 528.
  - Trading Licences, Conditions of Granting, *Feb. 18*, 525.
- Opium
  - China
    - Cultivation and Importation Statistics, Supply of Information as to, *Feb. 14*, 307.
    - Official Measures for Restricting Consumption in, *Feb. 14*, 306.
  - Indo-Chinese Trade, Reason for Decline in, *Feb. 14*, 307.
- Persian Gulf—Trade done by Hamburg-American Steamship Company in 1906, *Feb. 14*, 293.
- Speech by one Member Attributed by Newspaper to another and only Part Explanation Published — Question of Privilege, *Feb. 15*, 423.
- Tibet—Travellers and Explorers, Removal of Veto on Entry of, from India, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 294.
- Welsh Church, Disestablishment of, Proposals as to, *Feb. 13*, 215.

Reformatory and Industrial Schools Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 20*, 856.

Remnant, Mr. J. F. [Finsbury, Holborn]
- Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 771–775.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19*, 771–775.
- Navy—Patrol Ships in Outlying Stations, Proposals as to, *Feb. 26*, 1418.

Randall, Mr. A. [Gloucester, Thornbury]
- Milk, Sale of—Procedure in Prosecutions for Adulteration, *Feb. 20*, 842, 843.
- Poor Prisoners Defence Act, Conditions of Granting Aid under, *Feb. 20*, 834.
- West Indies, Naval Vessels in Neighbourhood of—Changes in Distribution under Present Government, *Feb. 14*, 298.

Resident Magistrates (Belfast) Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 419.

Richards, Mr. T. F. [Wolverhampton, W.]
- Fiji—Conditions of Employing Forced Labour, *Feb. 26*, 1404.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 444, 445; *Feb. 20*, 969, 970.
- Leicester, Vaccination Question in, Immunity of the Town from Smallpox, etc., *Feb. 15*, 444, 445.
- Local Authorities, Loans to—Legality of Payments to Permanent Staff, *Feb. 25*, 1256.
- Unemployed
  - Causes of Distress, *Feb. 20*, 969, 970.
  - Machinery and Labour-Saving Devices the Cause of Unemployment, *Feb. 20*, 970.
- West Bridgeford, Loan to—Payments to Labourers, etc., *Feb. 25*, 1256.

Richmond (Surrey) Electricity Supply Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 286.
- 2R.* *Feb. 26*, 1398.

Ripon, Marquess of—*Lord Privy Seal*
- Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 37.
- Afghanistan, Amir of, Visit of to India, *Feb. 12*, 33, 34.
- Army Reorganisation Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 37.
- Colonial Conference—Omission of Mention from the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 33.
- Goschen, Viscount, Death of—Tributes to Services, etc., *Feb. 12*, 31.
- Indian Administrative Policy, *Feb. 12*, 34.
- Jamaica—Earthquake in Kingston, *Feb. 12*, 33.

[*cont.*

Ripon, Marquess of—*cont.*
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 31–39.
- Land Valuation, England and Wales, Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 38.
- Licensing Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 37.
- Moray Firth Illegal Trawling Case, Procedure in, *Feb. 14*, 276, 277.
- New Hebrides
  - Convention with France, Provisions of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 12*, 32.
  - Indentured Labour in, Conditions of Service—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 12*, 32.
- Parliament
  - Differences between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 12*, 34–37.
  - House of Lords—Sittings to be on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, *Feb. 18*, 497.
- Small Holdings Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 38.
- Transvaal Witwatersrand Association—Speech of Under-Secretary for the Colonies on December 18th, Reason for Cabling to South Africa, *Feb. 19*, 685–687.
- University Education Ireland, Proposals for Dealing with, *Feb. 12*, 37.

Roberts, Earl
- Defence of the Empire from Invasion.
  - Navy as a Guarantee against, *Feb. 18*, 505, 506.
  - Number of Men and Ships Necessary to Effect a Successful Action, *Feb. 18*, 507.
  - Possibility of, Measures taken to Deal with, *Feb. 18*, 507–509.

Roberts, Mr. C. H. [Lincoln]
- Liquor Traffic — Legislative Proposals, *Feb. 26*, 1434.

Roberts, Mr. J. H. [Denbighshire, W.]
- Bombay Liquor Traffic Regulations, *Feb. 19*, 705.

Roberts, Mr. S. [Sheffield, Ecclesall]
- Home Rule—Government Attitude and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 609, 610.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 609–610.
- New Hebrides
  - British Resident Commissioner, Name of, *Feb. 20*, 829.
  - Convention, Proposals for Proclaiming, *Feb. 20*, 829.
- Relations between the Lords and Commons, Proposals for Re-adjustment of, F *Feb. 18*, 609, 610.
  - Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18*, 610.

Robertsbridge
- Telephone Service, Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Courthope ; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 19*, 693, 694.

Robertson, Rt. Hon. E.—*Secretary to the Admiralty* [Dundee]
- Admiralty Contracts
  - Allocation of and System of Calling for Tenders, *Feb. 21*, 1019.
  - Meat Contracts—Regulations as to Supply of Tinned Meat Rations, *Feb. 19*, 692.
- "Albemarle" and "Commonwealth," Information as to Collision between, *Feb. 18*, 534, 535.
- Canteen System Inquiry, Report of, *Feb. 20*, 826.
- Channel Fleet
  - Constitution of—Date of Completion of Repairs to "Dominion" and "Commonwealth" *Feb. 26*, 1418.
  - Strength of, *Feb. 19*, 698, 699.
- Coal Consumption in British and Foreign Countries, *Feb. 26*, 1401.
- Devonport, Visit of Prince of Wales to—Inquiry into Cause of Friction between Civil and Naval Authorities, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1241.
- Distribution under New Scheme, Particulars of, *Feb. 21*, 1014.
- Dockyards
  - Chargemen, Wages of, *Feb. 26*, 1401.
  - Vaccination of Employees—Case of W. J. Woodcock, *Feb. 20*, 825.
  - Wages, Cost of Increase of, *Feb. 19*, 698.
- Greenwich Observatory, Effect of Electric Power Station on—Adoption of Report, etc, *Feb. 25*, 1241.
- Home Fleet, Strength of and Ability to meet Sudden Attacks, *Feb. 25*, 1242.
- Manœuvres—Omissions from Report, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1006.
- Officers, Retired—Admiralty Power of Preventing Indiscreet Public Expression of Opinions on Naval and Political Matters, *Feb. 18*, 534.
- Painting and Decorating Ships by Officers out of their Private Funds, *Feb. 25*, 1240.
- Patrol Ships in Outlying Stations, Proposals for utilising Vessels as, *Feb. 21*, 1020 ; *Feb. 26*, 1417, 1418.
- Portsmouth Barracks Disturbance—Reconsideration of Sentences, proposed, *Feb. 18*, 523.
- Portsmouth Lock Entrance, Expenditure on, *Feb. 26*, 1418.
- Rosyth Base, Proposals for Completing, *Feb. 19*, 698.

[*cont.*

Robertson, Rt. Hon. E.—*cont.*
- Savings Banks—Rate of Interest on Deposits, *Feb. 20*, 826.
- Shipbuilding—"Invincible" Class, Allocation of Contracts for, *Feb. 19*, 699.
- Stokers performing Clerical Duties, Pay of, *Feb. 19*, 692.
- West Indies, Naval Vessels in Neighbourhood of—Changes in Distribution under present Government, *Feb. 14*, 298.

Robertson, Mr. J. M. [Northumberland, Tyneside]
- Egypt
  - Brown, Mr. Knox, Concessions granted to, *Feb. 26*, 1403.
  - Cairo Electric and Gas Lighting, and Tramways System—Proposals for Prevention of Monopolies, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1429.
  - Education—Instruction in Arabic, *Feb. 21*, 1036; *Feb. 26*, 1402.
  - Military Conscription System, Abolition of, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1035, 1036.
  - Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cost of and Necessity for, *Feb. 26*, 1402.
  - Pellagra, Preventive Measures against, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1035.

Robinson, Mr. S. [Brecknock]
- Police—Day of Rest Weekly, Increase of Staff necessitated by, *Feb. 14*, 307.

Rogers, Mr. F. N. [Wiltshire, Devizes]
- Agriculture—Acreage in England and Wales occupied by Small Holdings, *Feb. 25*, 1227.
- Infant Mortality, Proposals for dealing with matter, *Feb. 25*, 1254.

Rolls Series
- Volumes of—Conditions of issue to Libraries.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Warner; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 18*, 526, 527.

Rona, Island of
- Light and Fog Signal, Proposals as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 26*, 1437.

Ropner, Colonel Sir R. [Stockton]
- Naval Savings Banks, Rate of Interest on Deposits, *Feb. 20*, 825.

Roscommon
- Land Purchase Transactions in.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1047.
- Untenanted Land, Purchase Proposals for.
  - *Q.* Mr. Hayden; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 26*, 1416.

Rose, Mr. C. D. [Cambridge, Newmarket]
- Indian Army—Condition of Rawal Pindi Barracks, *Feb. 20*, 827; *Feb. 25*, 1245.

Rosyth
- Naval Base, *see* Navy—Rosyth.

Rowlands, Mr. J. [Kent, Dartford]
- Agricultural Holdings Act 1906.
  - Evasion of by certain Landlords, Allegations as to and Proposals for Preventing, *Feb. 18*, 564.
  - Postponement of Operation of—Advantage taken by certain Landlords, etc., *Feb. 18*, 564.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20*, 948.
- Saccharine Smuggling, Cases of and Prosecutions for, *Feb. 25*, 1274.
- Unemployed—Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20*, 948.

Royal Academy of Arts
- Number of Academicians, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. C. Money; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 25*, 1272.

Royal Insurance Company Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Runciman, Mr. W., *Financial Secretary to Treasury* [Dewsbury]
- Civil Service Boy Clerks, Reply to Memorial from, *Feb. 20*, 823.
- Colonial Audit Branch, Origin of—System of appointing Clerks, etc., *Feb. 19*, 694.
- Crown Lands, Management and Direction, New Arrangements for, *Feb. 20*, 832.
- Customs and Excise.
  - Launches, Hours of Labour of Crews, *Feb. 21*, 1013.
  - Revenue (1905–6) Statistics as to, *Feb. 26*, 1408.
- Dublin
  - Public Buildings, Proposals for Repair of, *Feb. 21*, 1017.
  - Rowing Club House on the River Liffey, Reason for Delay in dealing with Application for, *Feb. 14*, 296.
- Education, Ireland
  - National School Teachers' Pension Fund—Tabling Report, proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1051.
  - School Building Plans and Grants, Decision as to, *Feb. 18*, 562, 563.
- Ennel, Lough, Control of—Measures for Prevention of Floods, etc., *Feb. 20*, 847.

Runciman, Mr. W.—*cont.*
- Exchequer and Audit Department
  - Abstractor Clerks, Promotion of, *Feb. 26,* 1413.
  - Staff, Information as to, *Feb. 26,* 1406.
- Hibernian Academy, Royal—Decision as to Recommendations of Commission, *Feb. 19,* 719.
- Inland Revenue—Inquiry, Scope of, and Proposals as to, *Feb. 30,* 824.
- Irish Language, Teaching in Schools, Cost of, *Feb. 19,* 719.
- Land Values (Scotland) Bill—Committee on, Expenditure of, *Feb. 21,* 1099, 1100.
- Larne School Erection, Cause of Delay in dealing with, *Feb. 26,* 1413.
- Moray Firth, Trawling in
  - Government Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Feb. 25,* 1259.
  - Representations made to Norwegian Government, *Feb. 20,* 832.
- North Sea Fisheries Investigation, Cost of, *Feb. 26,* 1439, 1440.
- Parliament
  - House of Commons
    - Committees, Expenditure of, Increase in Estimate for, *Feb. 21,* 1099.
    - Offices, Vote for—Increase in, Explanation and Criticism of Items, *Feb. 21,* 1098.
    - Shorthand Writers
      - Increase in Estimate for, *Feb. 21,* 1100.
      - Printing of Reports, etc., Delay involved in sending to Reading, *Feb. 21,* 1101, 1102.
  - Papers, Distribution of
    - Date of carrying out Recommendations of Committee, *Feb. 21,* 1099.
    - Wages of Persons Employed, Information as to, *Feb. 21,* 1100.
- *Parliamentary Debates.*
  - Bound Volumes and Index to Session, Date of Issue of, *Feb. 18,* 527.
  - Irish Debates, Date of issue of Bound Volume of, *Feb. 18,* 527.
- Parliamentary Election Petitions—Legal Expenses in connection with, Information as to, *Feb. 21,* 1123, 1124.
- Persia, Administration of—Attitude of the British Government as to Protection of British Subjects, etc., *Feb. 18,* 545.
- Provident Societies, Registration Fee New Regulations as to, *Feb. 18,* 549.

Runciman, Mr. W.—*cont.*
- Rolls Series, Volumes of—Conditions of Issue to Libraries, *Feb. 18,* 527.
- Russia—Allegations as to Tortures inflicted on Russians at Riga, *Feb. 20,* 831.
- Surveyors of Taxes, Compassionate Grants to Clerks of, *Feb. 20,* 823.
- Tea, Precautions against tampering with during Transit from Ship to Bond, *Feb. 21,* 1013.
- Tuberculosis Royal Commission, Expenditure on, *Feb. 21,* 1045.
- Turner, Rex., *v.* Case of—Expenses of Witnesses, Cause for Delay in Payment of, *Feb. 26,* 1439.
- United States of America—Salary of British Ambassador, *Feb. 18,* 545.
- Whitburn Beach, Colliery Refuse, Prohibition of depositing on, proposed, *Feb. 26,* 1439.

Russell, Mr. T. W. [Tyrone, S.]
- Clanricarde Estates, Situation on, Treatment of Evicted Tenants, etc., *Feb. 14,* 360.
- Evictions—Reinstatements under Land Act, 1903, Progress made with, and Proposals for expediting Proceedings, etc, *Feb. 14,* 359–361.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14,* 359–361.
- Land Commission
  - Temporary Lay Assistant Commissioners, Number of and Proposals as to, *Feb. 18,* 562.
  - Wilkinson, Mr., Offices held by, *Feb. 18,* 560.

Russia
- Atrocities in—Intervention of Great Britain proposed.
  - *Os.* Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 12,* 104.
- Riga—Allegations as to Tortures inflicted on Russians.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. R. Macdonald; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 20,* 831.
- Trade Report Presented, *Feb. 21,* 978.

Rutherford, Dr. V. H. [Middlesex, Brentford]
- Burma
  - Flogging as Judicial Punishment in, *Feb. 19,* 703.
  - Rangoon Gaol—Allegations as to Flogging of Prisoner Awaiting Trial, *Feb. 19,* 703.
- Egypt—Education, British and Native Teachers employed, *Feb. 21,* 1034, 1035.
- Hounslow—Case of Mr. A. Clarke, *Feb. 20,* 822.
- Madras High Court, Vacant Judgeships, Proposals for filling, *Feb. 21,* 1023.

[*cont.*

Rutherford, Dr. V. H.—*cont.*
Militia—Date of Presenting Report on Fleetwood Camp, *Feb. 19*, 702; *Feb. 20*, 819.
Natal—British Indians, Trading Rights of *Feb. 19*, 540.
New Hebrides Convention—Reason for not Prohibiting Supply of Opium to Natives, *Feb. 21*, 1029.
Soudan War—Liberation of Dervishes Imprisoned at Damietta proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1034.

Rutherford, Mr. W. W. [Liverpool, West Derby]
Income Tax
  Civil Servants, Liability of, *Feb. 26*, 1430.
  Postal Employees, Liability of, as to Overtime Earnings, *Feb. 26*, 1430.
Inebriate Homes, Ireland, Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1110, 1111.
Parks and Gardens—Reasons for Increase in Wages of Employees, *Feb. 21*, 1063.
Parliament
  House of Commons
    Room for Interviewing Constituents and Transacting Business, Necessity for Provision of, *Feb. 21*, 1072.
    Ventilation, Expenditure on, Explanation of Increase in Estimate, *Feb. 21*, 1070, 1071.
  Houses of—Increase in Vote for, Explanation of Items, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1070–1072.
Travelling Expenses of Chief Secretary and Under-Secretary during Autumn Session, Information as to, *Feb. 21*. 1111.

Saccharine
Smuggling, Cases of and Prosecutions for, *Q.* Mr. Rowlands; *A.* Mr. Asquith *Feb. 25*, 1274.

St. Helena
Flax Industry, Grant-in-aid for.
Os. Captain Craig, *Feb. 26*, 1465; Mr. Ashley, 1472, 1473; Mr. Churchill, 1475–1477; Mr. Lyttelton, 1480; Sir F. Banbury, 1487, 1488; Colonel Kenyon-Slaney, 1492; Mr. Bowles, 1498.

St. Neot's Urban District Council Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Sale of Intoxicating Liquors (Ireland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 422.

Sale of Whisky Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 568.

Salisbury Plain
Tidworth Barracks *see under* Army.

Sassoon, Sir E. A. [Hythe]
Army Reorganisation, Proposals, *Feb. 12*, 119.
Colonial Conference—Preference, Opportunity for Discussing, *Feb. 12*, 117.
Housing of the Working Classes Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 117.
Jamaica, Earthquake—Absence of British Cruiser, *Feb. 12*, 119.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 116–121.
Liquor Licences—Statistics as to Refusals, etc., *Feb. 18*, 523.
London County Council, Wasteful and Prodigal Administration of, *Feb. 12*. 118.
Parliamentary Differences between Lords and Commons, Proposals for Settlement of, *Feb. 12*, 120.

School Board Electorate (Scotland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 19*, 722.

Schwann, Mr. C. D. [Cheshire, Hyde]
Natal British Indians, Position of, *Feb. 26*, 1425–1426.

Scotland
Secretary for—Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.
Lord Advocate—Rt. Hon. T. Shaw.
Solicitor-General—Mr. A. Ure.
[*For Particular Places, see their Names.*]
Church Commission, Work of and Date of Presenting Report.
  Q. Mr. E. Wason; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 26*, 1443.
Court of Session for the West, proposed.
  Q. Mr. Cleland; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 25*, 1264.
Crofters' Commission
  Assessor's Information as to Appointment of.
    Os. Mr. A. Chamberlain, Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 21*, 1129, 1130.
  Chairman, Name, Salary, etc., of.
    Os. Mr. T. L. Corbett, *Feb. 21*, 1129; Mr. Sinclair, 1129; Mr. A. Chamberlain, 1129.
  Estimate for, Reason for Increase in.
    Os. Capt. Craig, *Feb. 21*, 1127; Mr. Courthope, 1127; Mr. Sinclair, 1128, 1129; Mr. Morton, 1130, 1131.
  Vote for, *Feb. 21*, 1127.

Scotland—*cont.*
Ecclesiastical Assessments
Abolition of Compulsory Levy proposed.
Os. Mr. McCrae, *Feb. 26*, 1525–1532; Mr. Crombie, 1532, 1533; Sir H. Craik, 1534–1537; Mr. Pirie, 1537; Mr. McCallum, 1538–1541; Mr. Mitchell-Thomson, 1541–1544; Mr. M. Ferguson, 1544; Mr. Cochrane, 1545–1547; Mr. T. Shaw, 1547–1552.
Return (1896–1904), Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1224.
Education, *see that title.*
Physical Deterioration Committee Opinions on Management of Young Children, etc., Circulation of Leaflets.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 25*, 1264.
Rights of Way, Defence of—Legislation to Confer Powers on Parish Councils, etc., proposed.
Q. Mr. Watt; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 21*, 1045, 1046.
Royal Scottish Museum—Report (1906) Presented, *Feb. 18*, 495–521.
Vaccination Acts, Administration of—Extension of Exemption Clauses to Scotland, proposed.
Os. Mr. E. Wason, Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 15*, 443; Mr. M. Ferguson, 451; Mr. Smeaton, 452.
Q. Mr. McCallum; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 20*, 844, 845.

Scott, Mr. A. H. [Ashton-under-Lyne]
Africa, South—Trading Rights of British Indians, *Feb. 19*, 706.
Natal—Trading Licences of Arab Storekeepers, *Feb. 19*, 705.

Secretary for Scotland
Rt. Hon. J. Sinclair.

Secretary of State for the Colonies
Rt. Hon. Earl of Elgin.

Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs
Rt. Hon. Sir E. Grey.

Secretary of State for the Home Department
Rt. Hon. H. Gladstone.

Secretary of State for India
Rt. Hon. J. Morley.

Secretary of State for War
Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.

Securities
Fall in—Proposals for Remedying Position.
Qs. Col. Kenyon-Slaney, Sir F. Banbury, Mr. Moore; *As.* Mr. Asquith, Mr. Speaker, *Feb. 26*, 1431, 1432.

Seddon, Mr. J. W. [Lancashire, Newton]
House of Commons Lift Attendants, Rate of Pay of, Provision as to Overtime, etc., *Feb. 21*, 1082.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 627–629.
Old-Age Pensions—Necessity for Dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 628, 629.

Seeley, Col. J. E. B. [Liverpool, Abercromby]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 166–170.
New Hebrides
Convention with France, Provisions of—Opinion of Australia and New Zealand, etc., *Feb. 13*, 167–170.
Indentured Labour in—Provisions of Ordinance, etc., *Feb. 13*, 166–170.
Soldiers, Consumptive—Treatment on Discharge, *Feb. 19*, 701; *Feb. 21*, 1007.
Transvaal Chinese Labour Repatriation
Conditions of, Progress Made, etc., *Feb. 26*, 1484–1485.
Cost of, Estimate for, *Feb. 26*, 1484.

Select Vestries Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 12*, 4.

Selsey Water and Gas Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 26*, 1393.

Settlement of Paupers Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 19*, 723.

Shackleton, Mr. D. [Lancashire, N.E., Clitheroe]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13* 255–257.
Old Age Pensions
Budget Surplus, Allocating for Pensions, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 256, 257.
Necessity for Dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 255–257.
Parks, Use of Roads in, Objections to Limiting to Motors and Carriages, *Feb. 21*, 1062.

Shanklin Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 286.

Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.—*Lord Advocate* [Hawick Burghs.]
Ecclesiastical Assessments, compulsory, in Scotland, Abolition of System, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1547–1552.

[*cont.*

Shaw, Rt. Hon. T.—*cont.*
- Elliot Junction Railway Accident
  - Date of Trial of Driver, *Feb. 18*, 556.
  - Inquiry, Result of, *Feb. 25*, 1265.
- Moray Firth, Trawling in, by British-owned Vessels Sailing under Norwegian Flag, *Feb. 18*, 556.

Sheehy, Mr. D. [Neath, S.]
- Dunshaughlin Labourers' Act, Inquiry, Decision in, *Feb. 25*, 1266.
- Prison Warders, Hours of Duty of, *Feb. 18*, 533.

Sheffield Corporation Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Shop Hours Act
- Closing Orders—Time required for Confirming or Rejecting.
  - *Q.* Mr. M. Ferguson; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 25*, 1226.
- Orders made under, Presented, *Feb. 12*, 46, 55, 56; *Feb. 13*, 156; *Feb. 14*, 275; *Feb. 18*, 497, 521; *Feb. 20*, 814; *Feb. 21*, 979.

Shops Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 423.
  - Order for Second Reading read, etc., and Bill withdrawn, *Feb. 19*, 812.

Shops (No. 2) Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 21*, 1057.

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*Secretary for Scotland* [Forfarshire]
- Church Commission, Work of and Date of Presenting Report, *Feb. 26*, 1443.
- Court of Session for the West, proposed, *Feb. 25*, 1264.
- Crofters' Commission
  - Assessors, Information as to Appointment of, *Feb. 21*, 1130.
  - Chairman, Name, Salary, etc., of, *Feb. 21*, 1129.
  - Estimate for, Reason for Increase in, *Feb. 21*, 1128, 1129.
- Education
  - Expenditure of School Boards—Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1131–1134.
  - Legislative Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 560.
  - Meals for Children—Proposals for Introducing Legislation, *Feb. 21*, 1045; *Feb. 26*, 1442.
  - School Board Franchise, Proposals for Extending, *Feb. 25*, 1263.
  - Teachers' Pensions, Proposals for Improving Scale of, *Feb. 26*, 1442.

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
- Fisheries
  - Breaches of Statutes—Legislative Proposals for Disposal of Penalties recovered, *Feb. 18*, 524, 559.
  - Protection of—Proposals for Additional Cruiser, *Feb. 25*, 1263.
- Glasgow—Duke Street Prison Assistant Surgeonship, Appointment to, *Feb. 19*, 718.
- Holyrood, Chapel Royal—Decision as to Legacy of Late Earl of Leven and Melville, *Feb. 14*, 310.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15* 443.
- Leith Shop Hours Act—Confirmation of Closing Orders, *Feb. 18*, 523.
- Lewis, Island of
  - Balinakill Burial Ground, Measures for Enlargement of, *Feb. 25*, 1232.
  - School Water Supply, Improvements Effected in, *Feb. 25*, 1233.
- Lunatic Asylums, District—Superannuation Allowances of Officers, *Feb. 19*, 718.
- Meat, Provisions for Inspecting, *Feb. 25*, 1262.
- Moray Firth, Trawling in
  - British-owned Vessels Sailing under Norwegian Flag, Proposals for Dealing with, *Feb. 18*, 558.
  - Foreign Trawlers, Reason for Omitting to Arrest, *Feb. 18*, 524, 560.
  - Norwegians tried at Elgin, Sentences on and Reason for Release of, *Feb. 18*, 557.
  - Proposals for Dealing with, *Feb. 20*, 845; *Feb. 26*, 1442, 1443.
- Motors—Traction Engine Traffic, Revision of Regulations as to, proposed, *Feb. 19*, 718.
- Physical Deterioration Committee, Opinions on Management of Young Children, etc., Circulation of Leaflets, *Feb. 25*, 1264.
- Police Grant for Pay and Clothing—Comparison between England and Scotland, *Feb. 18*, 558.
- Poor Law—Reason for Dismissal of Dr. G. Duncan, *Feb. 26*, 1443.
- Prisons, Reason for Prolongation of Service of Chairman of Commissioners, *Feb. 18*, 559.
- Rights of Way, Defence of—Legislation to Confer Powers on Parish Councils, etc., proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1046.
- Shop Hours Act—Time Required for Dealing with Closing Orders, *Feb. 25*, 1226.
- Small Landholders (Scotland) Bill, proposals for Re-introducing, *Feb. 20*, 845.

[*cont.*

Sinclair, Rt. Hon. J.—*cont.*
Vaccination Acts, Administration of—Extension of Exemption Clauses to Scotland, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 443; *Feb. 20*, 845.

Slate Clubs
Losses by—proposals for Safeguarding Funds.
Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 25*, 1246.

Sloan, Mr. S. H. [Belfast, S.]
Belfast
Poor Relief Regulation as to Posting of Names, Abolition of, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1447, 1448.
Post Office
Engineering Department, Decision as to Transfer of, *Feb. 14*, 313.
Reason for Stopping Telegraphist at Efficiency Bar, *Feb. 21*, 1004.
Inland Revenue Inquiry, Scope of and proposals as to, *Feb. 20*, 823.
Malta Roman Catholic Archbishop, Military Rank of, *Feb. 14*, 297.
National School Teachers' Salaries, Procedure in Paying, *Feb. 26*, 1445.
Taxes, Surveyors of — Compassionate Grants to Clerks, *Feb. 20*, 823.

Small Holdings Bill
c. 1R. *Feb. 15*, 418.
Proposals as to.
Os. Lord Castletown, *Feb. 12*, 11; Earl of Chichester, 16; Marquess of Ripon, 38; Mr. Tomkinson, 59; Mr. K. Hardie, 106; Mr. Vivian, 115, 116; Earl Percy, *Feb. 18*, 575, 576; Mr. Masterman, 613.
References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

Small Holdings (Scotland) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 25*, 1276.
Re-introduction, proposals as to.
Q. Mr. J. Dewar; *A.* Mr. Sinclair, *Feb. 20*, 845.

Smallpox
Average Annual Death-rate, 1838–1853.
Os. Mr. Lupton, *Feb. 14*, 406.

Smeaton, Mr. D. M. [Stirlingshire]
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 452.
Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R. *Feb. 22*, 1176.
Vaccination Acts, Administration of—Extension of Exemption Clauses to Scotland, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 452.

Smith, Mr. A. H. [Hertfordshire, Hertford]
Agriculture
Rothampsted Experimental Station, Work done at—Government Grant, proposed, *Feb. 14*, 379.
Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up to date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 379, 380.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 379.

Smith, Mr. F. E. [Liverpool, Walton]
Education Bill of 1906, Attitude of the Lords towards, *Feb. 18*, 646.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 18*, 643–649.
Parliamentary Relations between the Lords and Commons, proposals for Re-adjustment of, *Feb. 18*, 644–649.
Unionist Party, Social Reforms effected by, *Feb. 18*, 643.

Society of Apothecaries of London Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Solicitor-General—*Sir W. S. Robson*

Solicitor-General for Ireland — *Mr. R. Barry*

Solicitor-General for Scotland—*Mr. A. Ure*

Soudan War
Dervishes Imprisoned at Damietta, Liberation of, proposed.
Q. Dr. Rutherford; *A.* Sir E. Grey *Feb. 21*, 1034.

South African War
Paardeburg, Battle of—Claim of F. J Brockett for Clasp.
Q. Mr. Whitehead; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25*, 1242.

Southend-on-Sea Corporation Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Southend Water Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

South Kensington Technological Institute
Progress of Negotiations as to Establishment, etc.
Qs. Sir P. Magnus; *As.* Mr. Lough, *Feb. 19*, 717.

South Lincolnshire Water Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Southport, Birkdale & West Lancashire Water Board Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

South Wales Mineral Railway Bill
c. 1r.* *Feb. 14,* 287.

Sparkbrook Gun Factory
Conditions of Purchase.
Q. Mr. Duncan; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 21,* 1009.

Speaker
Bill Introduced under Ten Minutes Rule,—only Members Wishing to Oppose Entitled to Address the House, *Feb. 20,* 858.
Disloyalty to the Crown, Imputations of, *Feb. 18,* 586.
Irrelevant Observations, *Feb. 19,* 766; *Feb. 25,* 1353, 1357.
King's Spech, Termination of General Debate on, Address in Reply, *Feb. 13,* 216.
Members
New, Procedure in Introducing, *Feb. 13,* 159; *Feb. 14,* 316.
Speech by one Member Attributed by Newspaper to another and only Part Explanation Published—Question of Privilege, *Feb. 15,* 423.
Worcester, Borough of, New Writ for—Motion for Issue of, Time Given for Allegations as to Corrupt Practices etc., *Feb. 14,* 317.

Spotted Fever
See Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis.

"Stag"
Loss of—proposals as to Inquiry.
Q. Mr. H. Wilson; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25,* 1235.

Statistical Abstract
British Empire (1891–1905) Presented, *Feb 12,* 43, 53.

Staveley Coal and Iron Company Bill
l. 1r.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

Staveley-Hill, Mr. H. [Staffordshire, Kingswinford]
Inebriate Homes, Irish, Estimate for, *Feb. 21,* 1110.
New Hebrides Convention
Parliamentary Discussion, Opportunity for, *Feb. 21,* 1052.
Provisions as to Employment of Native Labour, *Feb. 21,* 1025, 1026.

Steadman, Mr. W. C. [Finsbury, Central]
Customs Launches—Hours of Labour of Crews, *Feb. 21,* 1013.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13,* 251–254.
Old-age Pensions—Necessity for Dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13,* 251–254.
Poor Law—Annual Amount Spent in Relief, *Feb. 13,* 253.

Stirling
Motor-Car traffic—Order Prohibiting on Certain Highways, Presented, *Feb. 12,* 46, 56.

Stockport
Post Office Messenger, Reason for Dismissal of.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 25,* 1257.
Q. Mr. Wardle; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 26,* 1438.

Stoke Newington
Post Office Accommodation, Inadequacy of, and proposals for Improving.
Q. Mr. Hart-Davies; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 25,* 1235.

Strachey, Sir E. [Somerset, S.]
Agricultural Land in England and Wales, occupied by Small Holdings, *Feb. 25,* 1228.
Agriculture and Fisheries Board
Constitution of, etc., *Feb. 25,* 1260.
Information, Inadequacy of Sources of, alleged, *Feb. 14,* 389, 390.
Beet, Sugar, Cultivation of, *Feb. 20,* 844.
Butter and Margarine Bill—Printing of Memorandum on certain Acts, *Feb. 25,* 1260.
Cattle, Irish, Allegations as to Tuberculation of—Inquiry proposed, *Feb. 14,* 292.
Diseases, Lack of Trustworthy Information as to Treatment of, etc., *Feb. 14,* 390.
Gooseberry Mildew, Precautions against spread of, *Feb. 14,* 309.
Hop Pockets, Marking of—Application of Act to Imported Hops, *Feb. 20,* 1441.
Imports of Meat, Butter and Flax (1891–1905), *Feb. 25,* 1228.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14,* 388–391.
Milk, Sale of—Procedure in Prosecutions for Adulteration, *Feb. 20,* 844.
North Sea Fisheries Investigation—British Proposals for continuing to participate in, *Feb. 26,* 1441.
Ordnance Survey
Maps, Irish, Estimate for, and Amount spent on, *Feb. 25,* 1234.
Wages, Rate of, in Ireland, *Feb. 25,* 1233.
Rothampsted Experimental Station, Work done at—Government Grant, proposed, *Feb. 14,* 390.
Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up to Date, etc., *Feb. 14,* 388–391.

Straits Settlements
- Opium, *see that title.*
- Selangor Native Government Contribution towards Erection of Mosque.
  - *Q.* Mr. Massie; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14*, 289.

Stuart, Mr. J. [Sunderland]
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 247–251.
- Old-Age Pensions
  - Manufactured Imports, 10 per cent. Tax on, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 247.
  - Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 3*, 247–251.

Suez Canal
- Capital of Company—Shares owned by British Government, etc.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. H. Heaton; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 18*, 526.
- Transit Dues, Proposals for Reduction of—Correspondence with Australian Government.
  - *Q.* Mr. J. H. Heaton; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 18*, 526.

Sugar
- Brussels Convention
  - Report of Proceedings Presented, *Feb. 12*, 44, 50.

Sullivan, Mr. D. [Westmeath, S.]
- Digby Estate, Sale Proposals for, *Feb. 18*, 532.

Summary Jurisdiction (Ireland) Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 421.

Summerbell, Mr. T. [Sunderland]
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 122–124.
- Lagos—Jekri Dock Labourers, Illegal Flogging of, Punishment meted out to Official Responsible for, *Feb. 14*, 305, 306.
- London—Provision of Clothing for Destitute Children by Poor Law Authorities—Case of M. Hayes, *Feb. 19*, 713; *Feb. 26*, 1436.
- Mines—System of Appointing Inspectors, *Feb. 19*, 710; *Feb. 26*, 1433.
- Old-Age Pensions, Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 124.
- Post Office
  - Mail Cart Drivers, Rural, Hours of Labour of, *Feb. 19*, 714.
  - Postmen, Auxiliary, Wages of—Case of A. Wilson, *Feb. 14*, 309.
- Soldiers, Consumptive—Treatment on Discharge, *Feb. 19*, 700; *Feb. 20*, 817.

Summerbell, Mr. T.—*cont.*
- Unemployed
  - Drink at the root of the Evil, alleged, *Feb. 12*, 123.
  - Question of—Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 122–124.
- Whitburn Beach—Prohibition of Deposit of Colliery Refuse, proposed, *Feb. 26*, 1439.
- Workmen's Compensation Act—Conditions of appointing Medical Referees, *Feb. 19*, 711.

Sunday Closing (Wales) Act (1881) Amendment Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 420.

Sunday Trading
- Legislative Proposals for dealing with.
  - *Q.* Mr. Gulland; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 26*, 1434.

Sunderland Corporation Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 287.
- 2R.* *Feb. 19*, 689.

Superannuation
- Appointments without Certificates—Minutes Presented, *Feb. 12*, 45, 54.
- Retiring Allowances granted, Minute Presented, *Feb. 12*, 45, 54; *Feb. 18*, 497, 521.

Supreme Court of Judicature
- *See under* Law Courts.

Surinam
- Postal Money Order Agreement Presented, *Feb. 19*, 690.

Sutton Coldfield Rectory Bill
- *l.* 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Swansea
- Education Dispute, Decision in.
  - *Q.* Lord R. Cecil; *A.* Sir J. Walton, *Feb. 14*, 310.

Swansea Harbour Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 287.

Sweated Industries Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 420.

Sweden
- Foreign and Colonial Parcel Post Warrant Presented, *Feb. 18*, 496, 522.

Sweden and Norway
- New Treaty, Progress of Negotiations as to.
  - *Q.* Mr. Ashley; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 26*, 1428.

Taff Vale Railway Bill
- *c.* 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 287.

Talbot, Lord E. [Sussex, Chichester]
  Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22,* 1177–1179.

Talbot, Mr. J. G. [Oxford University]
  Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22,* 1182–1186, 1211.

Taxation
  Collection — Statistics (1905–7), Return Ordered, *Feb. 25,* 1226.
  Local
    Ireland—Accounts (1899–1906) Presented, *Feb. 14,* 276, 288.
    Scotland—Returns for 1904–5 Presented, *Feb. 12,* 46, 56.
  Luxuries, Taxation of, Suggested.
    Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 26,* 1430.
  Surveyors of Taxes, Compassionate Grants to Clerks of.
    Q. Mr. Sloan; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 20,* 823.

Taylor, Mr. A. [Liverpool, E. Toxteth]
  Church Discipline Bill, Intro., *Feb. 20,* 856–858.
  Colonial Conference, 1907, Proposals as to, *Feb. 18,* 544.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13,* 172; *Feb. 18,* 600–603.
  Liberal Party, Policy of—Neglect of Social Legislation, etc., *Feb. 18,* 601–603.
  New Hebrides Convention—Article 68, Information as to, *Feb. 13,* 172.

Taylor, Mr. T. C. [Lancashire, S.E., Radcliffe]
  Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for Bringing up to Date, etc., *Feb. 14,* 399–401.
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14,* 399–401; *Feb. 20,* 941–945.
  Unemployed
    Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem, *Feb. 20,* 943, 944.
    Difficulties of the Problem, *Feb. 20,* 941.
    Payment of, at less than Standard Rates, proposed, *Feb. 20,* 943, 944.
    "Unemployable" Class, Necessity for dealing with, *Feb. 20,* 942.
  Worcester, Borough of, New Writ for—Motion for Issue of, Time given for Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14,* 322.

Tea
  Transit from Ship to Bond, Precautions against tampering with Goods during.
    Q. Mr. Delany; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 21,* 1013.

Tees Conservancy Bill
  l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.
  2R.* *Feb. 25,* 1219.

Tees Valley Water (Consolidation) Bill
  l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.
  2R.* *Feb. 25,* 1219.

Telegraph Service
  Circular inviting Applications for Transfer of Female Provincial Operators to London, Reason for Issue of.
    Q. Mr. Bowerman; *A.* Mr. Buxton, *Feb. 22,* 1147, 1148.

Telegraph Construction Bill
  c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 316.

Thomasson, Mr. F. [Leicester]
  Naval Dockyard Employees, Vaccination of—Case of W. J. Woodcock, *Feb. 20,* 825.

Thompson (Clonfin) Estate
  Untenanted Land, Disposal of.
    Q. Mr. Farrell; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21,* 1050.

Thorne, Mr. W. [West Ham, S.]
  King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 20,* 923–928.
  Manchester Education Committee, Use of Police Stations by, as Depots for Supply of Meals to School Children, *Feb. 21,* 1041.
  Unemployed
    Census of, on American System, proposed, *Feb. 25,* 1251.
    Effect of Act of 1905, *Feb. 20,* 926.
    Fund, Allocation of, *Feb. 20,* 925.
    Hours of Labour, Reduction of, in all Trades, proposed, *Feb. 20,* 927.
    Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 20,* 923–925.
    Statistics as to, *Feb. 20,* 926.

Tibet
  Travellers and Explorers, Removal of Veto on Entry of, from India, proposed.
    Q. Mr. Rees; *A.* Mr. Morley, *Feb. 14,* 294, 295.

Tomkinson, Mr. J. [Cheshire, Crewe]
  Administrative Changes in Ireland, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12,* 60.
  Jamaica — Earthquake in Kingston, *Feb. 12,* 59.
  King's Speech,—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12,* 58–60.
  Licensing Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12,* 59.
  Marriage with a Deceased Wife's Sister Bill, 2R., *Feb. 22,* 1179.

[*cont.*

Tomkinson, Mr J.—*cont.*
Mines (Hours of Labour) Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12,* 60.
Small Holdings Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12,* 59.

Tottenham Estate
Sale Proposals for.
Q. Mr. Dolan; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 22,* 1149.

Toulmin, Mr. [Bury, Lancashire]
Transvaal, Chinese Labour--Licences issued, Statistics as to Wastage and Number of Coolies employed, *Feb. 18,* 525.
Unemployed Statistics
Basis of calculating, *Feb. 18,* 528.
Effect of Shipbuilding Dispute on Tees and Clyde, *Feb. 25,* 1236.

Traction Engines
See under Motors.

Trade, Board of
President—Rt. Hon. D. Lloyd-George.
Parliamentary Secretary—Mr. H. E. Kearley.
Membership of and Number of Meetings attended by Archbishop of Canterbury.
Q. Mr. J. MacVeagh; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 20,* 839.

Trade Reports
Annual Series Presented, *Feb. 12,* 40, 50; *Feb. 18,* 496, 521; *Feb. 21,* 978, 1003; *Feb. 26,* 1400.

Trade Unions
Report of Chief Registrar, Presented, *Feb. 25,* 1220, 1225.

Trade and Commerce
Accounts (1907)—Return Ordered and (in part) Presented, *Feb. 12,* 58.
Statistics for United Kingdom and certain Foreign Countries (1906).
Q. Mr. J. D. White; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 21,* 1010.

Transvaal
Asiatics, Legislation affecting—Correspondence Presented, *Feb. 12,* 57; *Feb. 14,* 275.
Chinese Labourers
Crime, Statistics and Information as to.
Qs. Mr. Mackarness, Mr. Lehmann; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18,* 542, 543.
Importation, Statisticsas to, and Reason for continuing.
Qs. Mr. Morrell; Mr. Carlile; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14,* 300, 301.
Right of the Transvaal to decide.
Os. Mr. Lyttelton, *Feb. 26,* 1482, 1483; Col. Kenyon-Slaney, 1493, 1494.

Transvaal—*cont.*
Chinese Labourers—*cont.*
Licences issued—Statistics as to Wastage and Number of Coolies employed.
Q. Mr. Toulmin; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18,* 525.
Petitions, Procedure as to.
Os. Mr. Mackarness, *Feb. 26,* 1467–1470.
Renewal of Contracts, British Government Attitude towards.
Q. Mr. Belloc; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14,* 304.
Repatriation
Conditions of, Progress made, etc.
Os. Captain Craig. *Feb. 26,* 1464, 1465; Mr. Mackarness, 1467, 1470–1472; Mr. Churchill, 1477–1480; Mr. Lyttelton, 1480–1482; Major Seely, 1484, 1485; Sir F. Banbury, 1486, 1487; Sir G. Parker, 1488–1491; Mr. Ward, 1491, 1492.
Cost of, Estimate for.
Os. Captain Craig, *Feb. 26,* 1463, 1464; Mr. Mackarness, 1466; Mr. Ashley, 1473; Mr. Churchill, 1477–1480, 1495; Mr. Lyttelton, 1480, 1484; Major Seely, 1484.
Repatriations effected—Number and Cause of Refusals, etc..
Qs. Mr. Verney, Mr. Mackarness ness; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14,* 303, 304.
Statistics as to.
Qs. Mr. Mitchell-Thomson; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 27,* 1009 *Feb. 26,* 1427.
Suitability of the Chinese for Mining Work.
Os. Mr. Ashley, *Feb. 26,* 1474.
Constitution—Upper Chamber, Proposals for Nominating.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18,* 543.
Qs. Mr. Alden, Mr. MacNeill; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 21,* 1032.
Elections, Granting Public Holiday for' proposed.
Q. Mr. Alden; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 18,* 543.
Financial Condition and Gold Output (1904–6).
Q. Mr. Morrell; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14,* 301.
Johannesburg Foreign Labour Department —Report Presented, *Feb. 21,* 977, 1003.
Labour Question in—Government Attitude towards.
Os. Lord Harris, *Feb. 19,* 675, 676.

[*cont.*

Transvaal—*cont.*
Mines
Drill, Result of Experiments with.
Q. Mr. Mackarness; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14*, 305.
Labour for, *see subheadings* Chinese, Native, *and* White Labour.
Native Labour—Witwatersrand Association.
Recruiting Methods of, alleged Attack on by Under-Secretary for the Colonies.
Os. Lord Harris, *Feb. 19*, 676–679; Earl of Elgin, 681; Marquess of Lansdowne, 684, 685.
Qs. Mr. Lyttelton; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26*, 1426, 1427.
Speech of Under-Secretary for the Colonies on December 18th, Reasons for Cabling to South Africa.
Os. Lord Harris; *Feb. 19*, 674–679; Earl of Elgin, 680, 681, 683; Marquess of Lansdowne, 683, 684; Marquess of Ripon, 685–687; Lord Ashbourne, 687, 688.
Q. Mr. Lyttelton; *A* Mr. Asquith *Feb. 18*, 546, 547.
White Labour—Unemployment on the Rand, Cause of and Proposals for Repatriating Australians, etc.
Qs. Mr. Mackarness, Mr. Fiennes; *As.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14*, 302.

Trawlers' Certificates Suspension Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 19*, 722.

Treasury Chest
Account (1905–6) Presented. *Feb. 12*, 55.

Tropical Diseases Research Fund
Report of Advisory Committee Presented, *Feb. 12*, 41, 51.

Trustee Savings Banks
Annual Report of Inspection Committee, Presented, *Feb. 18*, 497, 520.

Tuberculosis
Royal Commission
Expenditure on.
Q. Mr. O'Grady; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 21*, 1045.
Cost of.
Q. Mr. Field; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 14*, 290, 291.
Presented, *Feb. 12*, 42, 52.

Tullamore
Smuggling of Spirits at—Proposals for Dealing with Matter.
Q. Mr. Lea; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 18*, 548.

Tunis
Trade Report Presented, *Feb. 12*, 40.

Turkey
Imperial Ottoman Guaranteed Loan—Accounts Presented, *Feb. 12*, 45, 55.
Reforms in European Vilayets, etc.—Proposals for Laying Papers.
Q. Earl Percy; *A.* Sir E. Grey, *Feb. 21*, 1037.

Turner, Rex v., Case of
Expenses of Witnesses, Cause for Delay in Payment of.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 26*, 1439.

Tweedmouth, Lord—*First Lord of the Admiralty*
Battleships
Nominal Roll of First-class Battleships fully Manned and in Active Commission in Home Waters on 13th February, 1907, *Feb. 18*, 498.
Nucleus Crews
Constitution of a Reduced Nucleus Crew, *Feb. 18*, 500.
Number of Ships provided with on 13th February, 1907, *February 18*, 499.
Defence of the Empire from Invasion Measures taken to deal with, *Feb. 18*, 515–517.
Mobilisation Tests at Manœuvres of June 14, 1906; *Feb. 18*, 499, 503.

Tyne Improvement Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1219.

Tynemouth Corporation Water Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25*, 1218.

Tyrone
North—New Writ for Parliamentary Election issued, *Feb. 22*, 1141.

Uganda
Beer, Spirits and Wine, Carriage charged on.
Q. Mr. Armitage; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14*, 289.
Railway
Housing Accommodation for Officials.
Q. Mr. Armitage; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 15*, 414.
Lake Victoria Steamers provided to run in connection with.
Q. Mr. Armitage; *A.* Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 14*, 290.

Unemployed
Afforestation as a Solution of the Problem.
Os. Mr. O'Grady, *Feb. 20,* 932; Mr. Alden, 936; Mr. Bridgeman, 938; Mr. T. Taylor, 943, 944; Mr. Brace, 945; Mr. Pickersgill, 947; Mr. Rowlands, 948; Mr. Burns, 957, 958.
Census, on American System, proposed.
Qs. Mr. Thorne, Mr. C. Money; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25,* 1251.
Difficulties of the Problem.
Os. Mr. O'Grady, *Feb. 20,* 929, 930; Mr. T. Taylor, 941; Mr. Maddison, 971.
Drink at the Root of the Evil, Alleged.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 12,* 107; Mr. Vivian, 112, 113; Mr. Summerbell, 123.
Amount spent on Annually by the Working Classes.
Os. Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20,* 962.
Effect of Act of 1905.
Os. Mr. Thorne, *Feb. 20,* 926.
Emigration Work of the Central London Body.
Os. Mr. Pickersgill, *Feb. 20,* 946; Mr. K. Hardie, 967.
Failure of the Government to deal with the Question.
Os. Earl Percy, *Feb. 18,* 573, 574; Mr. O'Grady, *Feb. 20,* 931; Mr. Burns, 954–958.
Funds, Administration of.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 12,* 110, 111; Mr. Vivian, 113, 114; Mr. Thorne, *Feb. 20,* 925; Mr. Burns, 955–958; Mr. K. Hardie, 966–968.
Hours of Labour, Reduction of in all Trades, proposed.
Os. Mr. Thorne, *Feb. 20,* 927; Mr. Bridgeman, 938.
Machinery and Labour-Saving Devices the Cause of Unemployment.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 20,* 965; Mr. T. F. Richards, 970.
Question of Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech.
Os. Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 12,* 107–111; Mr. Vivian, 115; Mr. Summerbell, 122–124; Mr. Thorne, *Feb. 20,* 923–925.
Payment of, at less than Standard Rates, proposed.
Os. Mr. T. Taylor, *Feb. 20,* 943, 944.
Proposals for dealing with, Information as to.
Os. Mr. Crooks, *Feb. 20,* 951; Mr. Burns, 952, 953, 960–962; Mr. Long, 963, 964; Mr. K. Hardie, 967.
Returns of Board of Trade, Information given in.
Qs. Mr. Mond; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 22,* 1145, 1146.
Q. Mr. Bowles; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25,* 1250, 1251.

Unemployed—*cont.*
Select Committee of Inquiry into the Matter, proposed.
Os. Mr. Alden, *Feb. 20,* 937.
Shipbuilding Disputes on the Tees and Clyde, Effect of on Statistics.
Q. Mr. Toulmin; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25,* 1236.
State Relief Works
Objections to Establishment of.
Os. Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20,* 954; Mr. Maddison, 972.
System of.
Os. Mr. Alden, *Feb. 20,* 935.
Statistics as to.
Os. Mr. Thorne, *Feb. 20,* 926; Mr. O'Grady, 928, 929; Mr. Alden, 934.
Basis of Calculating.
Q. Mr. Toulmin; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 18,* 528.
Time allowed to elapse between Applications and giving of Employment by Boards.
Os. Mr. Pickersgill, *Feb. 20,* 947; Mr. Crooks, 949.
"Unemployable" Class, Necessity for Dealing With.
Os. Mr. T. Taylor, *Feb. 20,* 942.
Waste Land, Reclamation of, by Means of the Unemployed, proposed.
Os. Mr. O'Grady, *Feb. 20,* 932, 933; Mr. Alden, 936; Mr. Burns, 956, 957.
Wheat, Price of, Relation of to Number of Unemployed.
Os. Mr. Bridgeman, *Feb. 20,* 940.

Unemployed Workmen Bill, 1905
Amendment of, Necessity for.
Os. Mr. Crooks, *Feb. 20,* 949; Mr. K. Hardie, 965, 966.

Unionist Party
Social Reforms effected by.
Os. Mr. Masterman, *Feb. 18,* 611; Mr. Fenwick, 632–634; Mr. A. Henderson, 836–640; Mr. F. E. Smith, 643.

United Methodist Church Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

United States of America
British Ambassador, Salary of and Age for Retirement.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 18,* 545.
Q. Sir H. Vincent; *A.* Mr. Asquith, *Feb. 25,* 1273.
Fugitive Criminals, Mutual Extradition of—Convention Presented, *Feb. 20,* 815; *Feb. 21,* 977, 978, 1002.
Import Duty on British Works of Art, Result of Negotiations as to.
Q. Mr. Lonsdale; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25,* 1250.

Vaccination
- Efficacy of, as a Preventive of Smallpox. *Os.* Mr. Lupton, *Feb. 14*, 407, 408, 409; Mr. Cave, *Feb. 15*, 426, 427; Mr. Long, 436.
- Exemption Certificates
  - Honeywood, Mr. J. L., Sentence on. *Qs.* Mr. Lupton; *As.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 20*, 838.
  - Procedure as to Granting. *Os.* Mr. Lupton, *Feb. 14*, 403; Mr. Burns, 411, 412; *Feb. 15*, Sir W. Foster, 441.
- Kelsch, Dr., Report of, on Experiment on Calf at Lamb's Conduit Street. *Q.* Mr. Lupton; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25*, 1252.
- Legislative Measure to be Introduced. *Os.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 14*, 411; Mr. Cave, *Feb. 15*, 425.
- Lymph
  - Measures taken to detect Disease Germs in, etc. *Qs.* Mr. Lupton; *As.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 20*, 840; *Feb. 25*, 1257.
  - Source of Supply. *Os.* Mr. Lupton, *Feb. 14*, 404, 405.
- Naval Dockyard Employees, *see* Navy—Dockyards.
- Penal Clauses of Acts, Repeal of, proposed. *Os.* Mr. Lupton, *Feb. 14*, 401–410, 453; Mr. Lehmann, 410; Mr. Burns, 411; Mr. Cave, 412; *Feb. 15*, 424–429; Sir W. J. Collins, 429–436; Mr. W. Long, 436–439; Sir W. Foster, 439–443; Mr. J. Collings, 445–448; Dr. Macnamara, 448–451; Mr. M. Ferguson, 451; Mr. Pickersgill, 452.
- Report and Recommendations of Committee of Inquiry. *Os.* Sir W. J. Collins, *Feb. 15*, 429–431; Dr. Macnamara, 449, 450.
- Syphilis as a Result of. *Os.* Mr. Lupton, *Feb. 14*, 407; Sir W. Foster, 440.

Verney, Mr. F. W. [Bucks, N.]
- Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for bringing up to date, etc., *Feb. 14*, 384–386.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14*, 384–386.
- Transvaal, Chinese Labour—Repatriations Effected, Number and Cause of Refusals, etc., *Feb. 14*, 303.

Vincent, Colonel Sir C. E. H. [Sheffield, Central]
- Army
  - Auxiliary Forces—Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1344, 1371–1374.
  - Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25*, 1344, 1371–1374.

Vincent, Colonel Sir C. E. H.—*cont.*
- Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis—Likelihood of Disease being brought by Aliens, *Feb. 25*, 1253.
- Colonial Conference 1907, Proposals as to, *Feb. 18*, 544.
- Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, Submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19*, 761–763.
- Indian Trade with Germany, Character and Importance of, *Feb. 19*, 760, 761.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 233–238; *Feb. 19*, 761–763.
- New Hebrides—Child Labour, Provisions as to, *Feb. 19*, 707.
- Newfoundland Fisheries—*modus vivendi* with United States, Proposals as to Publishing Correspondence, *Feb. 18*, 541.
- Old Age Pensions
  - Friendly Societies, Securing Co-operation of, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 236.
  - German System, Working of, *Feb. 13*, 235, 236.
  - Manufactured Imports, 10 per cent. Tax on, proposed, *Feb. 13*, 236–238.
  - Necessity for dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 233–238.
- Poor Law—Annual Amount spent in Relief, *Feb. 13*, 234, 235.
- United States of America—British Ambassador, Salary of and Age for Retirement, *Feb. 18*, 545; *Feb. 25*, 1273.

Vivian, Mr. H. [Birkenhead]
- Housing of the Working Classes Bill, Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 115, 116.
- King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 12*, 111–116.
- Old Age Pensions—Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 111, 112.
- Small Holdings Bill—Proposals as to, *Feb. 12*, 115, 116.
- Unemployed
  - Drink at the Root of the Evil, alleged, *Feb. 12*, 112, 113.
  - Funds, Administration of, *Feb. 12*, 113, 114.
  - Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 115.

Vivisection
- Commission—Report Presented, *Feb. 12* 43, 52.

Volunteers
Financial Liability of Commanding Officers, Removal of.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1294.
Q. Mr. Courthope; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 14,* 299.
Organisation of, Deficiencies in.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1293, 1294.
Reform Proposals.
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1293–1306.

Wages Boards Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15,* 419.

Walker, Mr. H. De R. [Leicestershire, Melton]
Imperial Institute, Work of Crown Agents in Connection with, *Feb. 21,* 1032.
New Hebrides Convention—Provisions as to Employment of Native Labour, *Feb. 21,* 1026, 1027.

Wall-Paper
Foreign Imported Paper, alleged Restriction by Trust, on Sale Price of.
Q. Mr. C. Money; *A.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25,* 1247, 1248.

Walrond, Mr. L. [Devon, Tiverton]
Education—Welsh Secretary and Chief Inspector, Salaries and Conditions of Appointing, *Feb. 21,* 1042.

Walsh, Mr. S. [Lancashire, S.W., Ince.]
Burma—Stability of Gotgeik Railway Bridge, *Feb. 21,* 1016.

Walters, Mr. J. T. [Sheffield, Brightside]
Army Arsenals, Allocation of Work to avoid Fluctuation of Employment—Committee of Inquiry proposed, *Feb. 25,* 1389.

Walton, Mr. J. [Yorkshire, W. R. Barnsley]
Fiscal Policy—Preferential Treatment for the Colonies, submitting Question to Colonial Conference, etc., *Feb. 19,* 775–778.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 19,* 775–778.

Walton, Sir J. L.—*Attorney-General* [Leeds, S.]
Elections
Legality of Expenditure by Persons other than Candidates, *Feb. 25,* 1260, 1261.
Restriction on Expenditure, proposed, *Feb. 25,* 1260, 1261.
Farsley—Circumstances of Discharge of Employee by Messrs. E. Woodhouse & Co., *Feb. 26,* 1440.
Hounslow—Case of Mr. A. Clarke, *Feb. 20,* 822.
Law Courts—Supreme Court of Judicature, Vote for, *Feb. 21,* 1120.

Walton, Sir J. L.—*cont.*
Parliamentary Election Petitions, Legal Expenses in Connection with, *Feb. 21,* 1120–1122.
Swansea Education Dispute, Decision in, *Feb. 14,* 310.
Worcester, Borough of—New Writ, Motion for Issue of, Time given for.
Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14,* 318–320.
Parliamentary Election Proceedings, Expenditure in connection with, *Feb. 21,* 1120–1122.

War Office
Secretary of State—Rt. Hon. R. B. Haldane.
Parliamentary Under-Secretary—Earl of Portsmouth.
Financial Secretary—Mr. T. R. Buchanan.
Canned Foodstuffs
Facilities for Colonial Firms to tender for Contracts.
Q. Mr. Hunt; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 19,* 701.
Q. Mr. Hunt; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 20,* 818.
Contracts—Fair Wages Clause, Observance of—Rate paid by Messrs. Arundle.
Q. Mr. Clynes; *A.* Mr. Buchanan, *Feb. 19,* 701, 702.
Q. Mr. Clynes; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 20,* 818, 819.
Flour Contracts—Amount supplied to Stations, etc.
Q. Lord J. Joicey-Cecil; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 18,* 525.
Hours of Labour of Officials.
Q. Mr. Higham; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 22,* 1150, 1151.
Tinned Meat Contracts—Allocation of Orders between Colonies and Foreign Firms.
Q. Mr. Hunt; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1232.

Ward, Mr. J. [Stoke-on-Trent]
Parliament
House of Commons
Bar in the Chamber, Removal of, proposed, *Feb. 21,* 1085.
Lifts, Increasing Number of, *Feb. 21,* 1085.
Houses of—Vote for Buildings, *Feb. 21,* 1084, 1085.
Transvaal Chinese Labour Repatriation, Conditions of, Progress made, etc., *Feb. 26,* 1491, 1492.

Wardle, Mr. G. J. [Stockport]
Stockport Post Office Messenger, Reason for Discharge of, *Feb. 26,* 1438.

Warlike Operations
Killed and Wounded Soldiers and Sailors (1898–1903), Return Presented, *Feb. 15*, 414.

Warner, Mr. S. C. T. [Stafford, Lichfield]
Rolls Series, Volumes of—Conditions of Issue to Libraries, *Feb. 18*, 526.

Warrington and Northwich Light Railways (Extension of Time)
Order Presented, *Feb. 18*, 495, 519.

Wason, Mr. E. [Clackmannan and Kinross]
"Albemarle," H.M.S., and H.M.S. "Commonwealth," Information as to Collision between, *Feb. 18*, 534.
Church Commission, Work of and Date of Presenting Report, *Feb. 26*, 1443.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 443.
Vaccination Acts, Administration of—Extension of Exemption Clauses to Scotland, proposed, *Feb. 15*, 443.

Wason, Mr. J. C. [Orkney and Shetland]
Defence of the Empire, Colonial Contributions towards, *Feb. 15*, 490.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 15*, 490.
Moray Firth, Trawling in by British-owned Vessels Sailing under Norwegian Flag, *Feb. 18*, 556, 558.
North Sea Fisheries Investigation, Cost of, *Feb. 26*, 1439, 1440.
Poor Law—Reason for Dismissal of Dr. G. Duncan, *Feb. 26*, 1443.

Waterford
Railway Station—Charge on Persons other than Passengers.
Qs. Mr. Power, Mr. P. O'Brien; *As.* Mr. Lloyd-George, *Feb. 25*, 1249, 1250.

Watford and Edgware Railway Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14*, 287.

Watt, Mr. H. A. [Glasgow, College]
Army Pensions—Case of Hon. Major W. S. Parr Campbell, *Feb. 26*, 1417.
Glasgow—Duke Street Prison Assistant Surgeonship, Appointment to, *Feb. 19*, 717.
Holyrood Chapel Royal—Decision as to Legacy of late Earl of Leven and Melville, *Feb. 14*, 310.
Meat, Provision for Inspecting in Scotland, *Feb. 28*, 1262.
Prisons—Reason for Prolongation of Service of Chairman of Commissioners, *Feb. 18*, 559.
Rights of way, Defence of—Legislation to Confer Powers on Parish Councils, etc., proposed, *Feb. 21*, 1045.

Wedgwood, Mr. J. C. [Newcastle-under-Lyme]
Admiralty Contracts, Allocation of and System of Calling for Tenders, *Feb. 21*, 1019.
Aliens Act Administration, Cost of, *Feb. 14*, 308.

Weights and Measures (Metric System) Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 417.

Weir, Mr. J. G. [Ross and Cromarty]
Army Medical Service Advisory Board, Scottish Medical Representation on, *Feb. 18*, 537.
Education
Expenditure of School Boards—Supplementary Estimate for, *Feb. 21*, 1134, 1135.
Meals for Children—Proposals for Introducing Legislation, *Feb. 26*, 1442.
School Board Franchise, Proposals for Extending, *Feb. 25*, 1263.
Teachers' Pensions, Proposals for Improving Scale of, *Feb. 26*, 1442.
Fisheries
Breaches of Statutes—Legislative Proposals for Disposal of Penalties Recovered, *Feb. 18*, 524, 559.
Protection of—Proposals for Additional Cruiser, *Feb. 25*, 1263.
House of Commons
Dining-room, new, Expenditure on, *Feb. 21*, 1090.
Vote Office, Improvement in Ventilation of, *Feb. 21*, 1089.
India
Bhola District Courts, Allegations as to, Irregularity in Holding, *Feb. 21*, 1015.
Delhi—Appointment and Duties of Mr. Addison, *Feb. 21*, 1015.
Lewis, Island of
Balinakill Burial Ground, Measures for enlargement of, *Feb. 25*, 1231.
School Water Supply, Improvement effected in, *Feb. 25*, 1233.
Moray Firth, Trawling in
Foreign Trawlers, Reason for omitting to Arrest, *Feb. 18*, 524, 559.
Norwegians tried at Elgin, Sentences on and Reason for Release of, *Feb. 18*, 557.
North Sea Fisheries Investigation, British Proposals for continuing to Participate in, *Feb. 26*, 1441.
Opium—Proposals for restricting Indo-Chinese Traffic, *Feb. 21*, 1015.

[*cont.*

Weir, Mr. J. G.—*cont.*
Physical Deterioration Committee, Opinions on Management of Young Children, etc.—Circulation of Leaflets, *Feb. 25,* 1264.
Roma, Island of—Lights and Fog Signals, Proposals as to, *Feb. 26,* 1437.
Taxation of Luxuries, suggested, *Feb. 26,* 1430.
X.-Ray Tubes, System of Supply of, *Feb. 26,* 1418.

Weir Estate
Evicted Tenants, Reinstatement of—Case of J. Walmsley.
Q. Mr. Fetherstonhaugh; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 20,* 820.

Welsh Church
Disestablishment of, Proposals as to.
Os. Mr. Rees, *Feb. 13,* 215.

West Bridgeford
Loan to, Payments to Labourers out of.
Q. Mr. T. F. Richards; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25,* 1256.

West Indies
See also Names of Islands.
Mail Service—Subsidy Granted for.
Os. Mr. Churchill, *Feb. 26,* 1495, 1496.
Naval Vessels in Neighbourhood of—Changes in Distribution under present Government.
Qs. Mr. Rendall, Mr. Bellairs; *As.* Mr. E. Robertson, *Feb. 14,* 298.

West Riding Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

West Yorkshire Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.
2R.* *Feb. 26,* 1393.

Western Valleys (Monmouthshire) Sewerage Board Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.
2R.* *Feb. 25,* 1219.

Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

Westminster, Palace of
Select Committee of Inquiry, Appointed, *Feb. 21,* 999, 1000.

Westminster City Council
Auditor's Report on Contracts, etc.—Inquiry proposed.
Q. Sir R. Hobart; *A.* Mr. Burns, *Feb. 25,* 1253, 1254.

Whitburn Beach
Colliery Refuse, Prohibition of Depositing on, proposed.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Runciman, *Feb. 26,* 1439.

White, Mr. G. [Norfolk, N.W.]
Business of the House, Course of, *Feb. 20,* 855.
Education Rate. Passive Resistance to Payment of—Legislative Proposals for dealing with Matter, *Feb. 21,* 1042.
Liquor Traffic—Proposals for dealing with Practice of taking Children into Public Houses, *Feb. 26,* 1414.

White, Mr. J. D. [Dumbartonshire]
Trade Statistics for United Kingdom and certain Foreign Countries (1906), *Feb. 21,* 1010.

Whitehead, Mr. R. [Essex, S.E.]
Australasian Import Duties on Products of New Hebrides, Revision of, proposed, *Feb. 19,* 708.
Devonport, Visit of Prince of Wales to—Inquiry into cause of friction between Civil and Naval Officials, proposed, *Feb. 25,* 1241.
Grays Post Office—Cause for Dismissal of Telegraph Boys, *Feb. 20,* 842.
Greenwich Observatory, Effect of Electric Power Station on—Adoption of Report, etc., *Feb. 25,* 1241.
New Hebrides
Administration—Appointment of separate High Commissioner, proposed, *Feb. 19,* 707.
Female Labour, Regulations as to, *Feb. 19,* 709.
Slate Clubs, Losses by—Proposals for safeguarding Funds, *Feb. 25,* 1246.
South African War—Claim of F. J. Brockett for Paardeburg Clasp, *Feb. 25,* 1242.

Wiles, Mr. T. [Islington, S.]
Post Office Savings Banks—Extension of Hours of Business proposed, *Feb. 19,* 693.

Williams, Colonel R. [Dorset, W.]
Agriculture—Scientific Research, Backward State of, in Great Britain, Necessity for Bringing up to Date, etc., *Feb. 14,* 398.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 14,* 398.

Williamson, Mr. A. [Elgin and Nairn]
Moray Firth Trawling.
British-owned Vessels Sailing under Norwegian Flag, Proposals for Dealing with, *Feb. 18*, 558.
Measures for Protection of Fisheries. etc., *Feb. 20*, 845.

Wilson, Mr. A. S. [Yorks, E.R., Holderness]
Channel Fleet, Strength of, *Feb. 19*, 698.
Worcester, New Writ for—Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc., *Feb. 14*, 324.

Wilson, Mr. J. Havelock [Middlesborough]
"Moravia" and "Stag," Loss of, Proposals as to Inquiry, *Feb. 25*, 1235.

Wilson, Mr. J. W. [Worcestershie, N.]
Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis—Measures taken to deal with Outbreak, *Feb. 20*, 840, 841.
King's Speech—Address in Reply, *Feb. 13*, 238–240.
Old-age Pensions—Necessity for Dealing with the Question, *Feb. 13*, 238–240.

Wilson, Mr. W. T. [Lancashire, Westhoughton]
House of Commons—Orders of the Day, etc., Facilitating Distribution of, *Feb. 21*, 1093.

Wiltshire
Charities—Further Return Presented, *Feb. 18*, 522.

Wines
Import Statistics (1906), Return Ordered, *Feb. 25*, 1226.

Winn Estate
Sale Proposals for—Terms of Purchase, etc.
Q. Mr. Boland; *A.* Mr. Birrell, *Feb. 21*, 1048.

Wireless Telegraphy
India, *see that title.*

Wisbech Water Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18*, 494.

Women
Local Bodies, Eligibility for Serving on, Legislative Proposals.
Os. Earl of Chichester, *Feb. 12*, 15; Mr. Rainy, 62; Mr. Keir Hardie, 105, 106.
References to, in the King's Speech, *Feb. 12*, 3.

Women's Enfranchisement Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 15*, 416.

Women's Suffrage
Disturbance Outside House of Commons—Conduct of Police, etc.
Os. Mr. C. Hay, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. K. Hardie, *Feb. 13*, 270–272.
Q. Mr. Morell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 20*, 836.
Sentences inflicted, Reason for Differences in.
Q. Mr. H. Law; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 18*, 552.

Woods, Forests, and Land Revenues
Abstract Accounts Presented, *Feb. 19*, 690.

Woolwich
Explosion—Government Proposals for making good Damage done to Private Property.
Q. Mr. Crooks; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 14*, 299.
Q. Sir W. Evans-Gordon; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 18*, 535.

Worcester
New Writ for
Allegations as to Corrupt Practices, etc.
Os. Mr. R. Duncan, Mr. Alden, Mr. Byles, Mr. S. Wilson, *Feb. 14*, 324; Mr. Asquith, 324–326.
Motion for Issue of, Time given for, Allegations as to Corrupt Practices etc.
Os. Sir A. Acland-Hood, *Feb. 14*, 317; Mr. S. MacNeill 317; Mr. Speaker, 317; Sir J. Walton, 318–320; Mr. Hemmerde, 320–322; Mr. T. Taylor, 322; Lord R. Cecil, 323; Sir C. Hill, 323.
Parliamentary Election Proceedings, Expenditure in connection with.
Os. Mr. C. Hay, *Feb. 21*, 1119, 1120; Sir J. Walton, 1120–1122.

Workhouses
Aged Persons in, Number of, and Cost of Maintenance.
Os. Mr. Barnes, *Feb. 13*, 219.

Workmen's Compensation
Schemes—Report of Chief Registrar Presented, *Feb. 25*, 1220, 1225.

Workmen's Compensation Act
Insurance Under, Omission of Reference to, in the King's Speech.
Os. Mr. Keir Hardie, *Feb. 12*, 106.
Medical Referees, Conditions of Appointing Case of Dr. Fee Todd.
Q. Mr. Summerbell; *A.* Mr. Gladstone, *Feb. 19*, 711.

Worthing Gas Bill
c. 1R.* *Feb. 14,* 288.

Wortley, Rt. Hon. C. B. S. [Sheffield, Hallam]
Land Values (Scotland) Bill Committee, Expenditure of, *Feb. 21,* 1100.
House of Commons Offices, Vote for Increase in—Explanation and Criticism of Items, *Feb. 21,* 1093.

Wyndham, Rt. Hon. G. [Dover]
Army
Artillery, Composition and Organisation of, *Feb. 25,* 1382.
Reform Proposals, *Feb. 25,* 1378-1383.
Reserve, Position of, Under the New Scheme, *Feb. 25,* 1382.

X-Ray Tubes
System of Supply of.
Q. Mr. Weir; *A.* Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 26,* 1418.

Yeomanry
Reform proposals
Os. Mr. Haldane, *Feb. 25,* 1293; Mr. Arnold-Forster, 1332.
Training Return Presented, *Feb. 19,* 673.

York (Micklegate Strays) Bills
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

York and Districts Tramways Bill
l. 1R.* *Feb. 18,* 494.

Zanzibar
Order in Council Presented, *Feb. 12,* 44, 56.